

A Centaur's Life



story & art
KEI MURAYAMA

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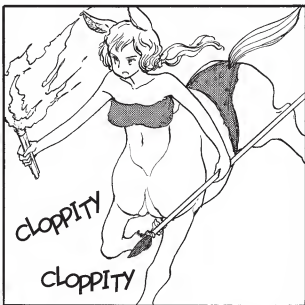
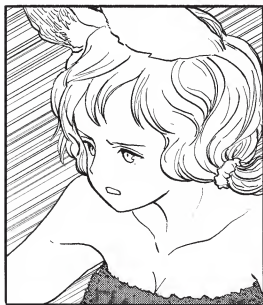
A Centaur's Life

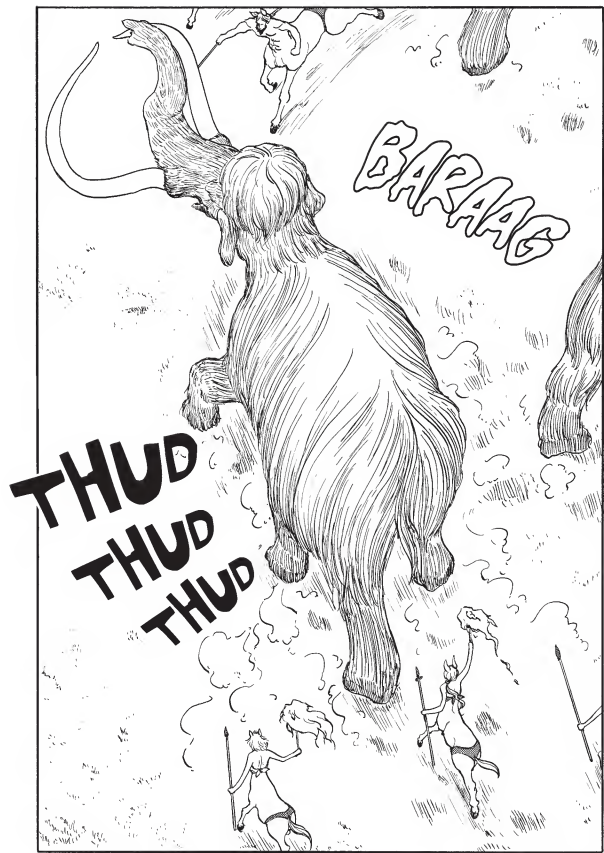
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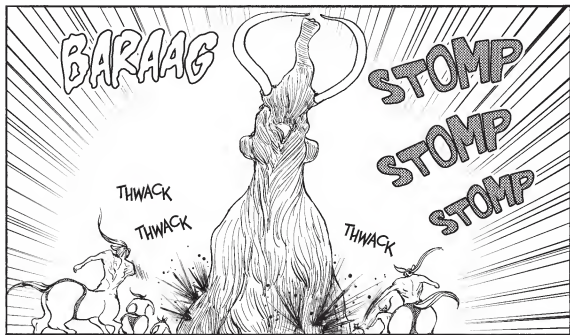
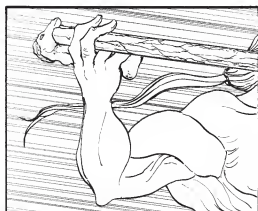
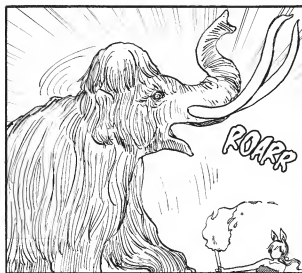
**KEI
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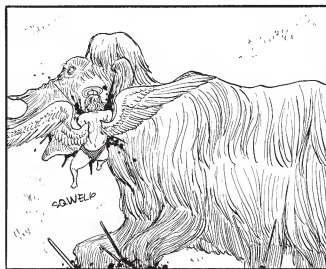
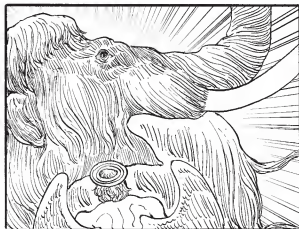
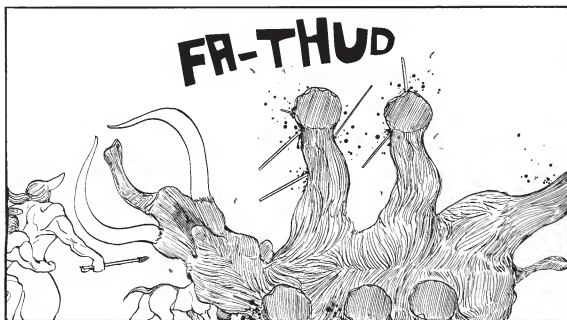


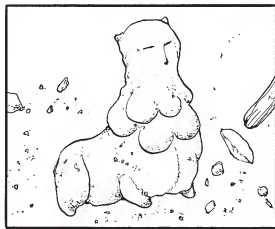
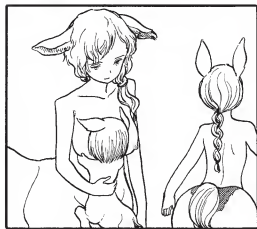
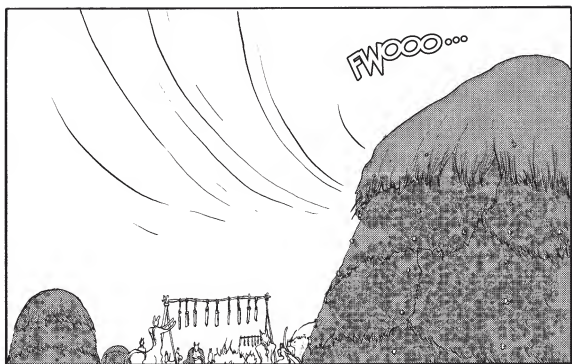
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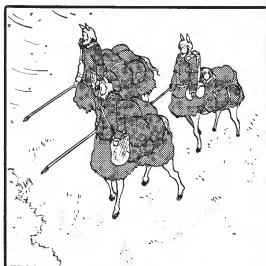
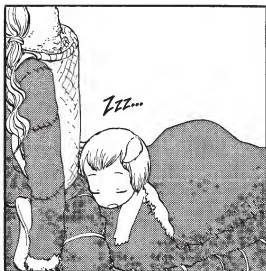


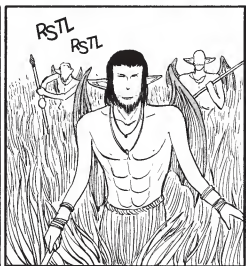
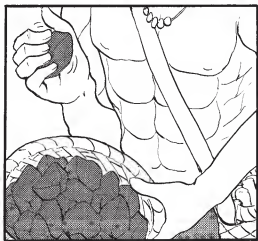
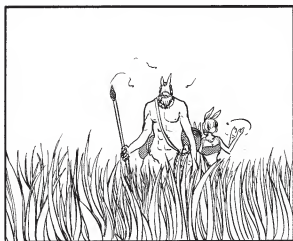
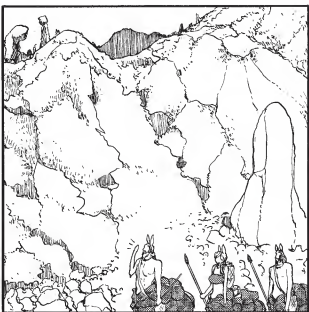
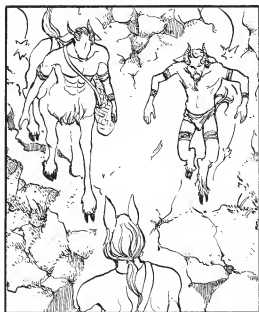


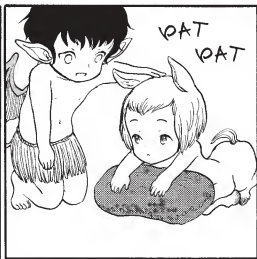
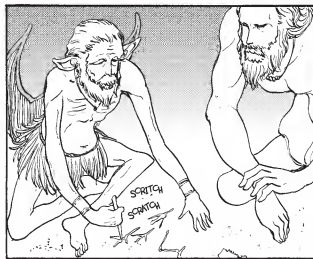
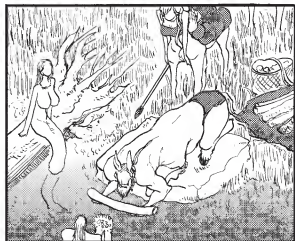
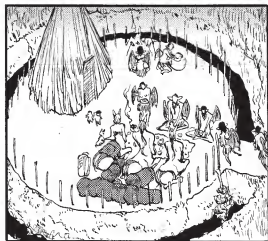
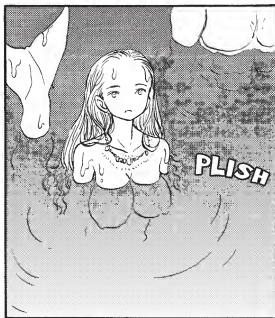


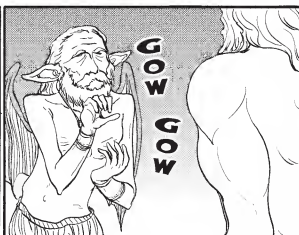


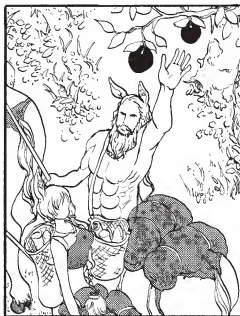


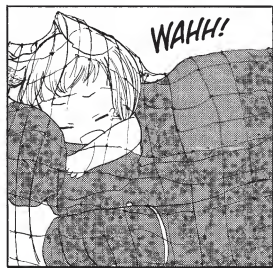
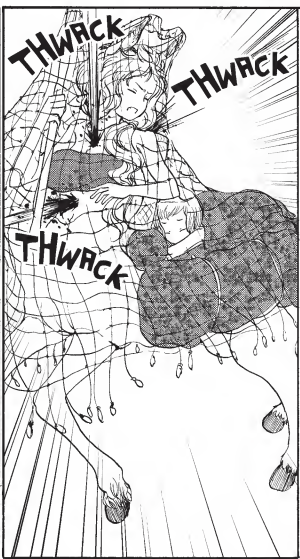
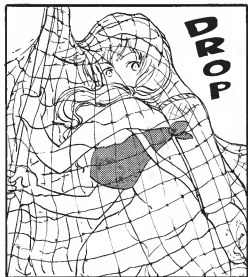


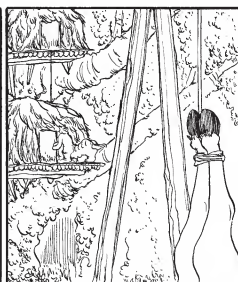
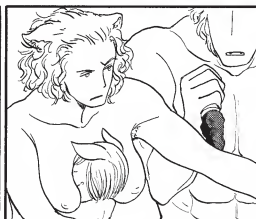
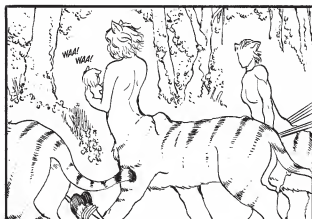


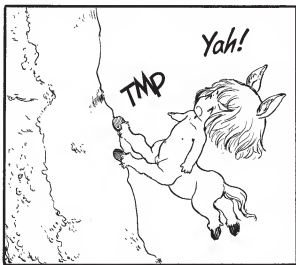
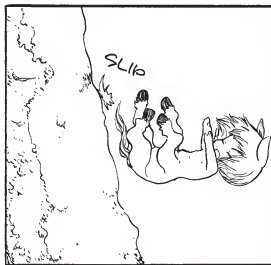
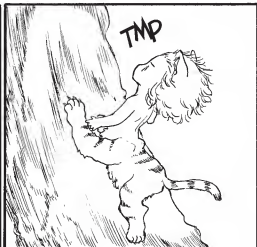
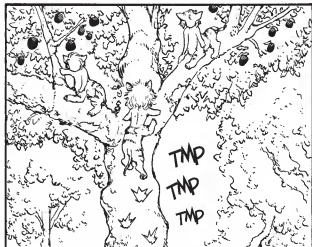
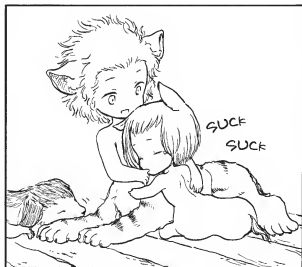


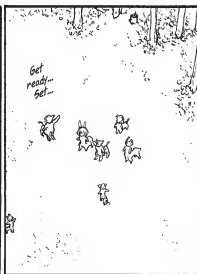
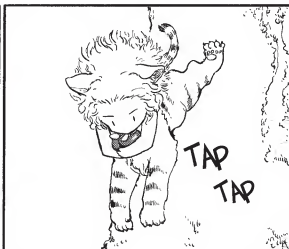
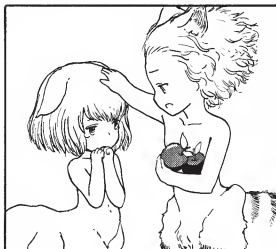
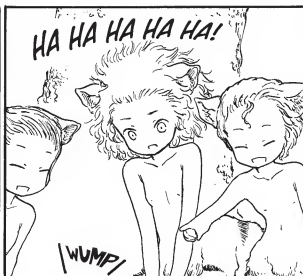
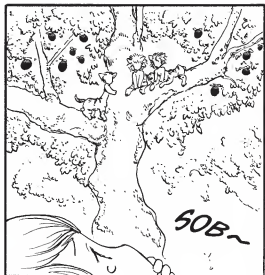


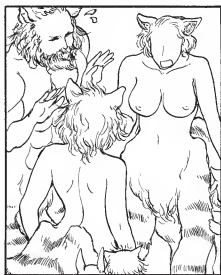
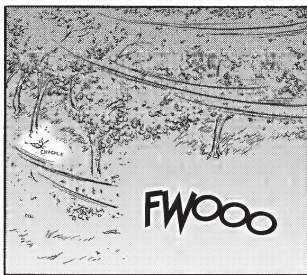
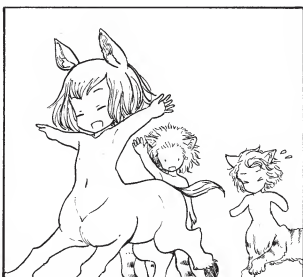


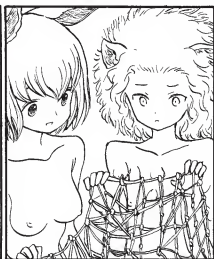
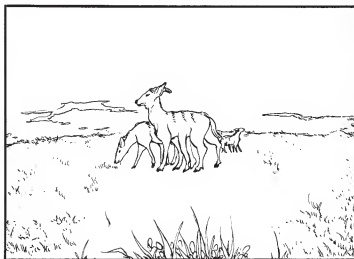
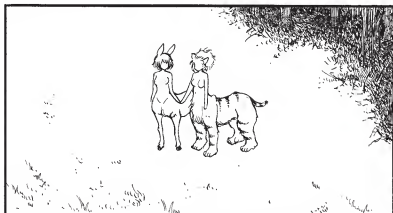
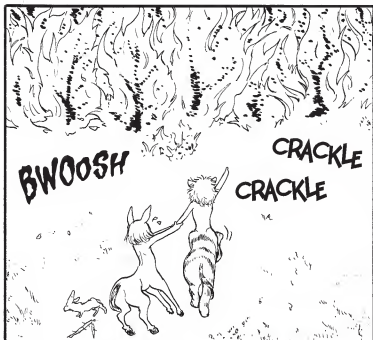


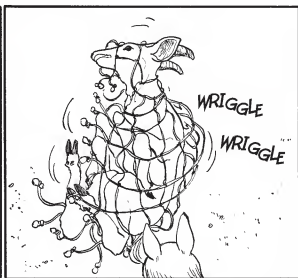
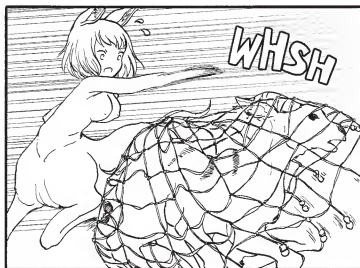
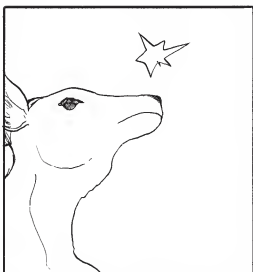
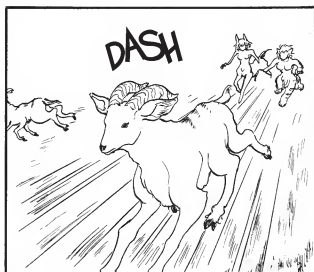


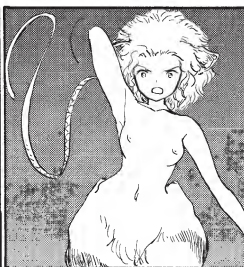
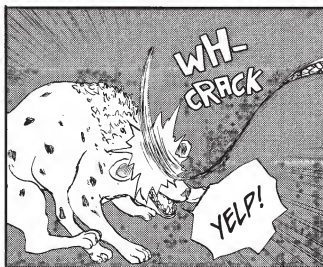
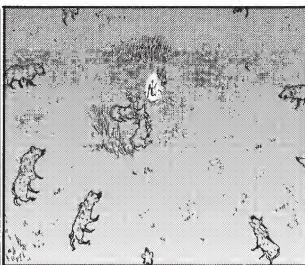


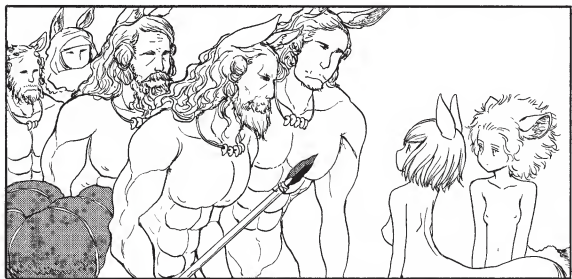
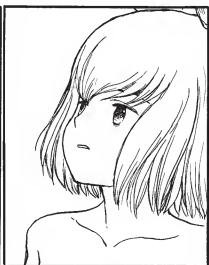
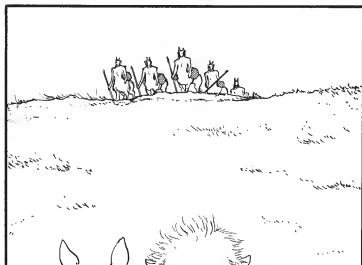
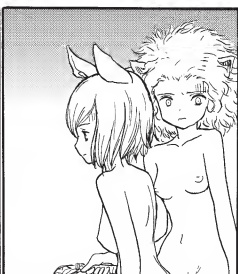
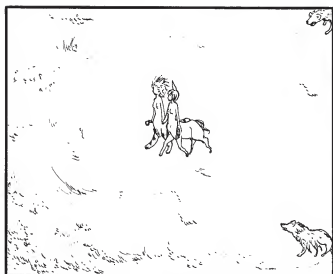


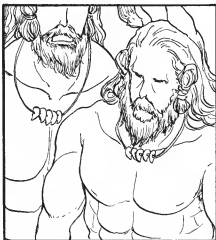
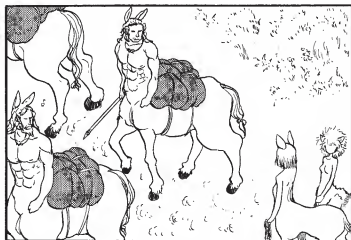
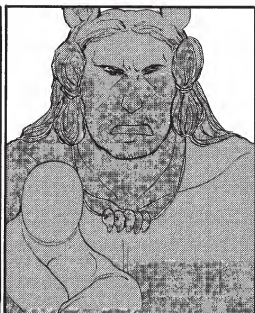


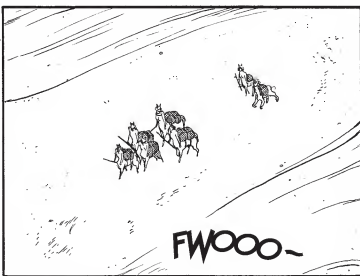
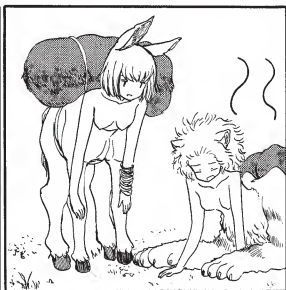
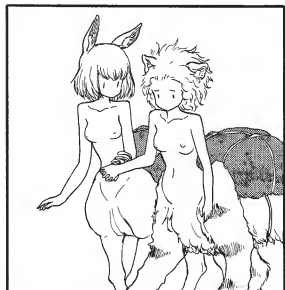
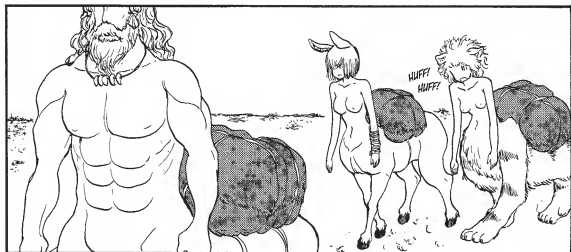


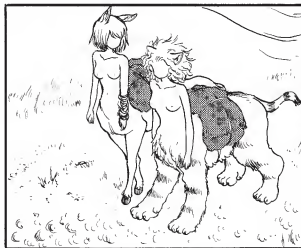
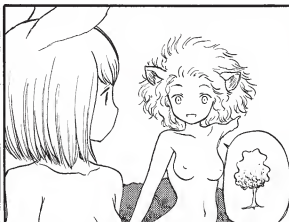
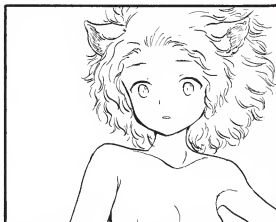
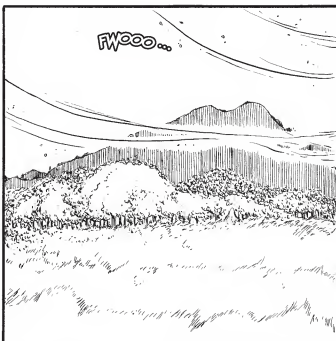
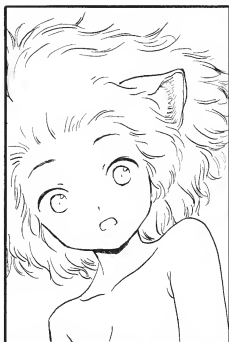


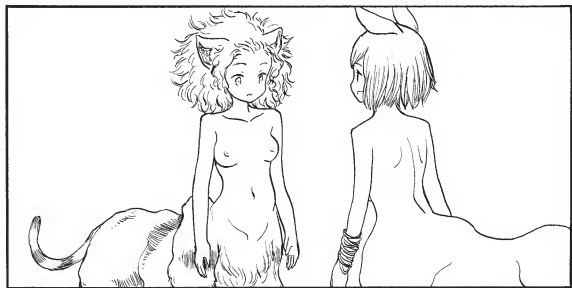
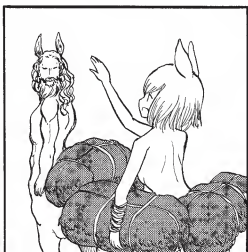
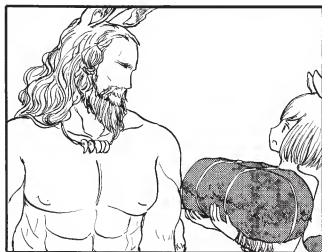
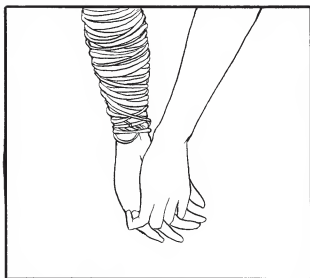


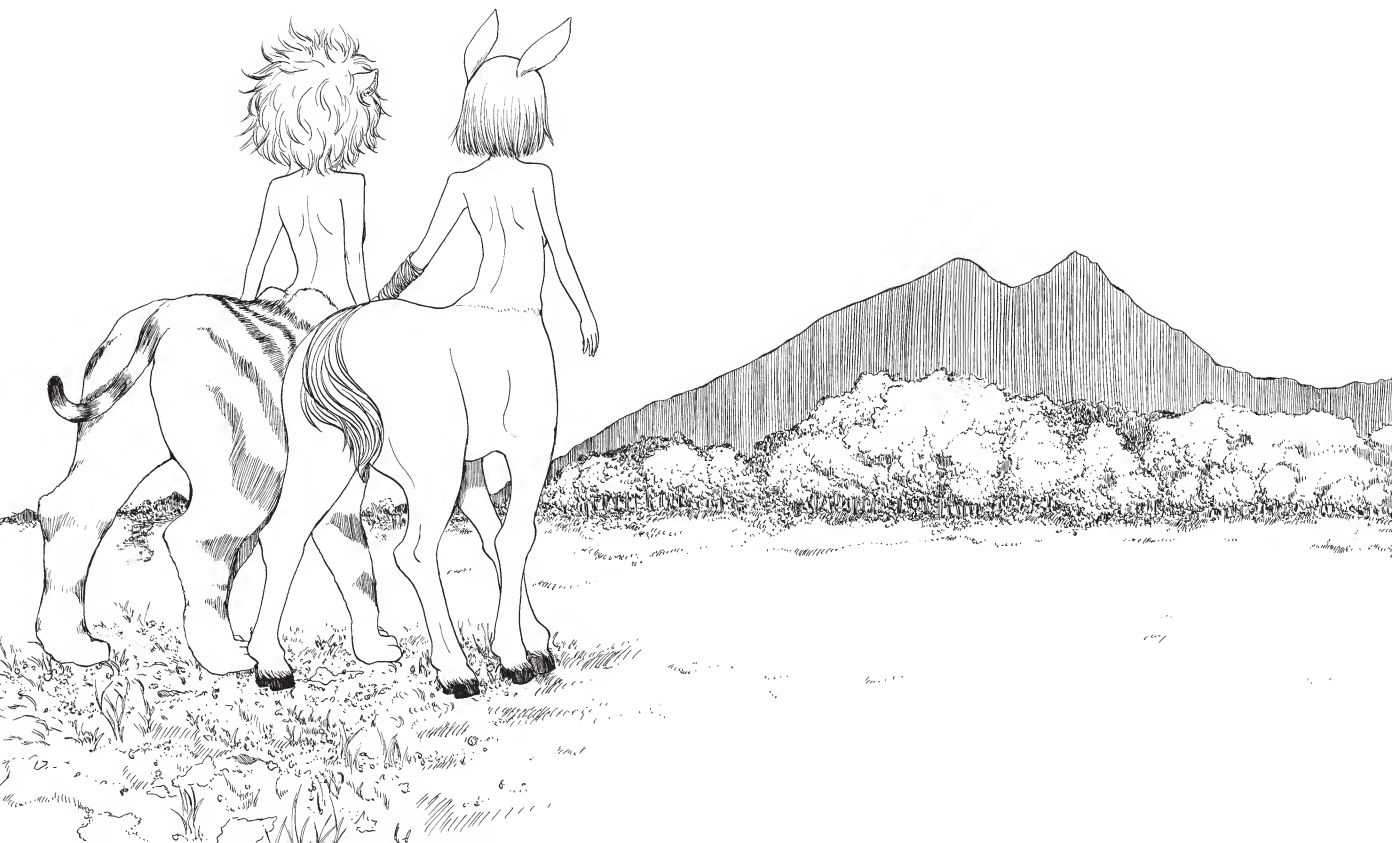


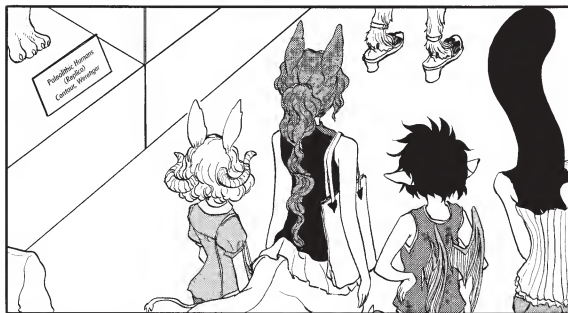
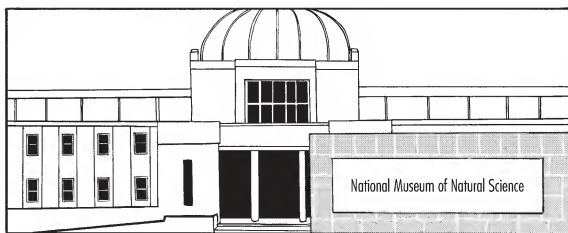












A CentaUr's Life

UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 1: AMPHIBIANFOLK AS A PEOPLE

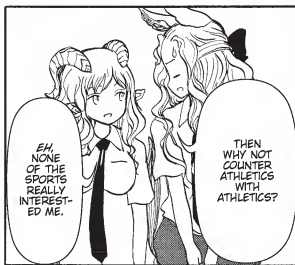
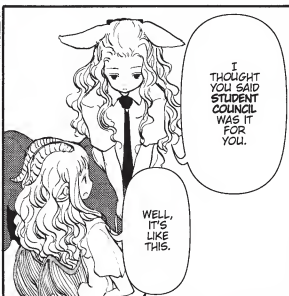
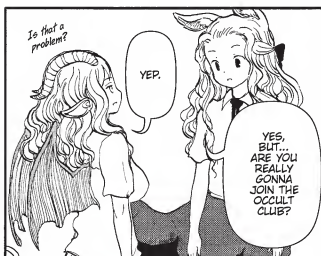
AMPHIBIANFOLK ARE A NON-MAMMALIAN INTELLIGENT RACE THAT PRIMARILY LIVE NEAR RIVER A IN SOUTH AMERICA. THEY'VE BEEN COMMONLY CALLED FROGFOLK IN THE PAST, BUT ARE NOW THOUGHT TO BE CLOSER TO AN EXTINCT SUBCLASS OF PRIMITIVE AMPHIBIANS THAN TO MEMBERS OF ORDER ANURA (FROGS AND TOADS) OR ORDER URODELA (SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS). ALTHOUGH MOST AMPHIBIANFOLK ARE BELIEVED TO SUBSIST BY FISHING AND HUNTING, SOME HAVE BEEN SEEN ENTERTAINING TOURISTS BY PERFORMING FOLK DANCES OR SELLING SOUVENIRS IN EASTERN TAWANTINSUYU. A SMALL NUMBER HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN MAMMALIAN COMMUNITIES. HOWEVER, THE AMPHIBIANFOLK GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS CTHULCTHUL* IS GARNERING A GREAT DEAL OF MAMMALIAN ATTENTION WITH THEIR RECENT ACTIVITIES; NOW THAT THE CTHULCTHUL HAVE OCCUPIED THE UPSTREAM AREA OF RIVER A, THEY POSE A THREAT TO A MAMMALIAN NATION.

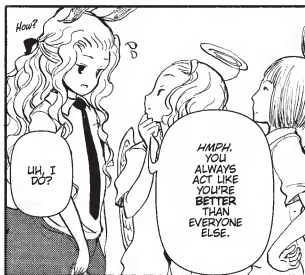
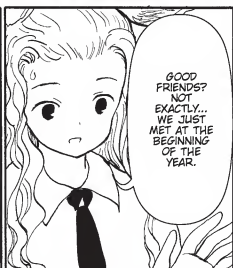
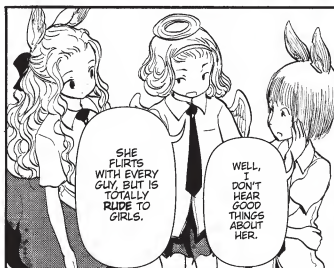
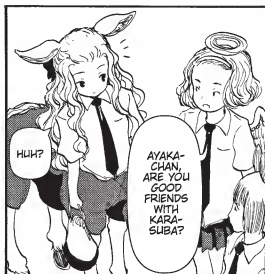


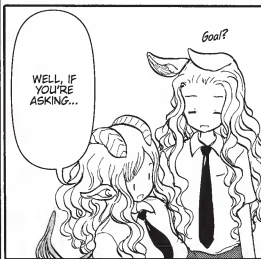
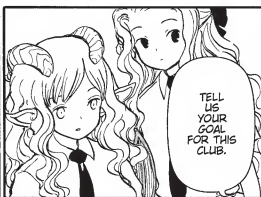
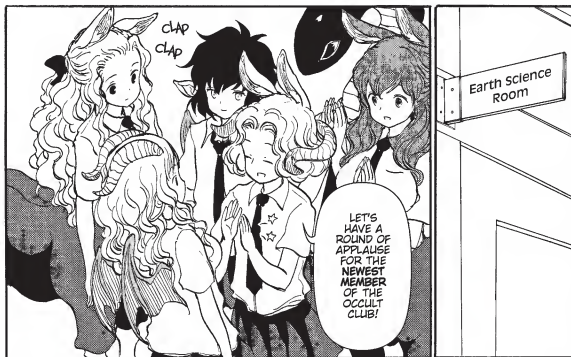
**NOTE: Cthulcthul means "Horizon of God" in the Gjolctil dialect of the amphibianfolk language.*

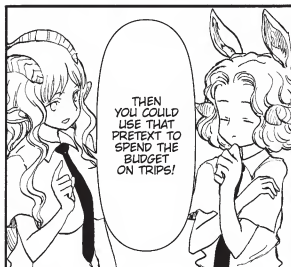
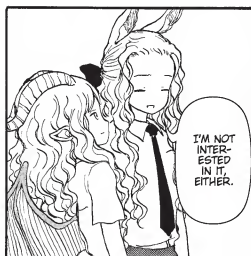
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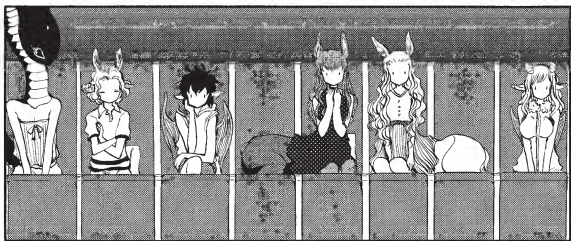
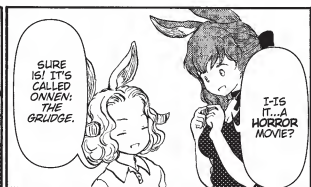
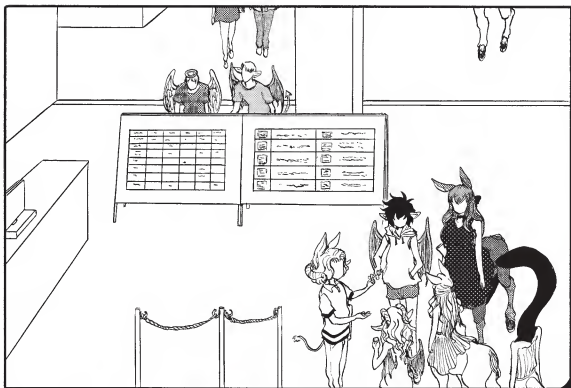


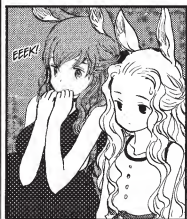
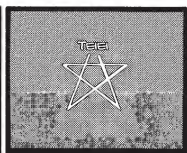
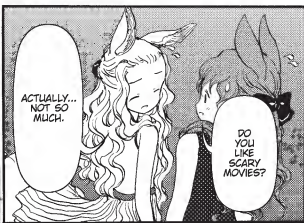
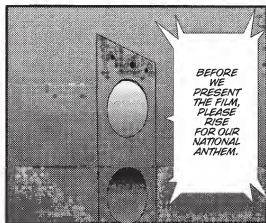


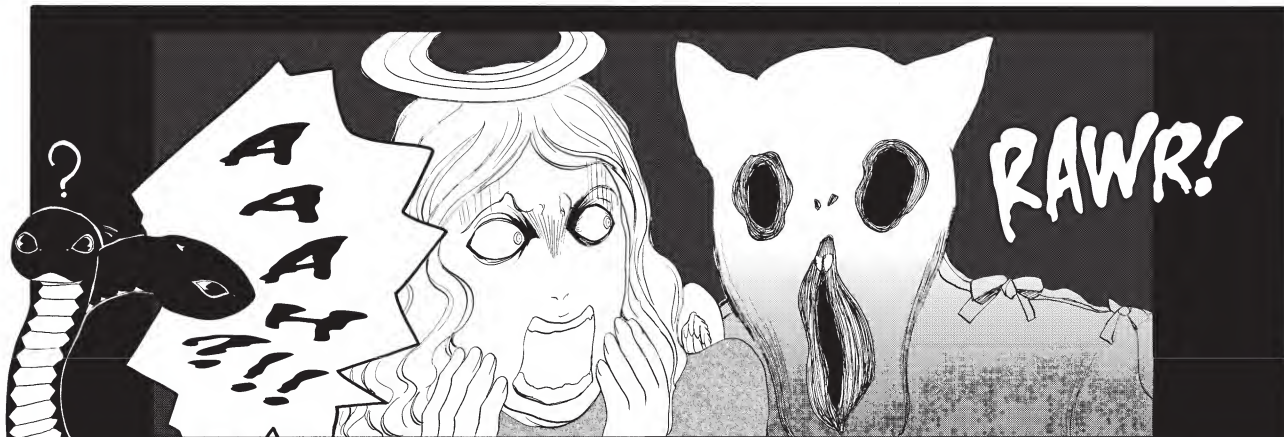


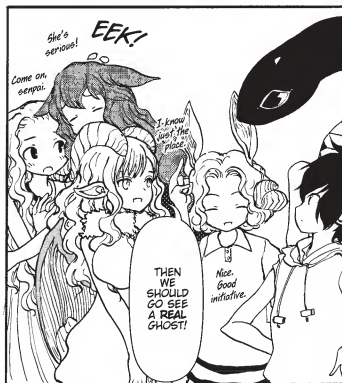
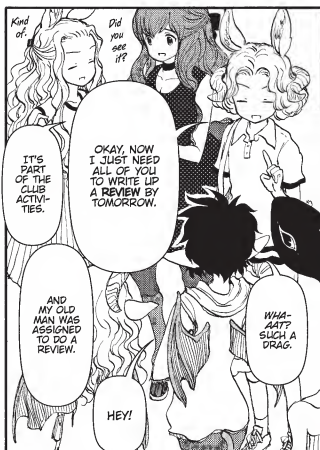












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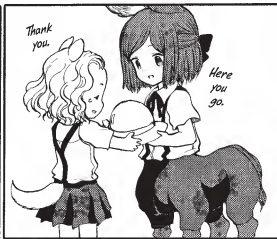
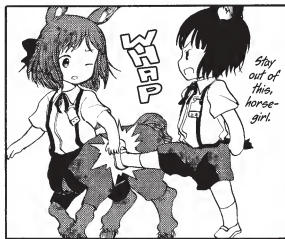
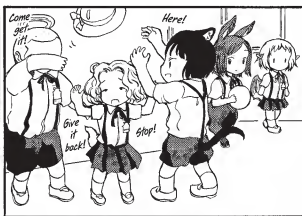
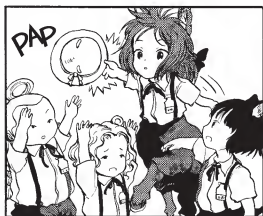
UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 2: THE MISUNDERSTANDING OF AMPHIBIANFOLK

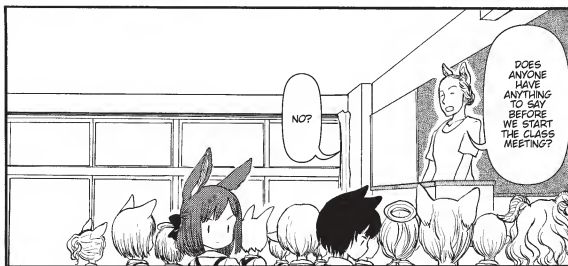
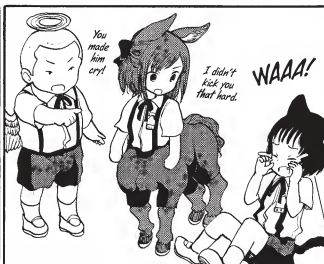
BECAUSE OF THEIR APPEARANCE, SOME PEOPLE MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT AMPHIBIANFOLK ARE NOTHING MORE THAN WALKING FROGS, BUT THEY ARE IN FACT ADVANCED LIFE FORMS. DESPITE THE NAME OF THEIR RACE, THEY DO NOT FIT THE TYPICAL CLASSIFICATION OF AMPHIBIANS. INSPECTING THEIR GENETIC MAKEUP SHOWS US THAT THE GENETIC DISTANCE BETWEEN A BULLFROG AND AN AMPHIBIANFOLK IS SIMILAR TO THE DISTANCE BETWEEN A FROG AND A MAMMALIAN HUMAN. THIS AND MANY OTHER FACTORS HAVE LED SCIENTISTS TO CONCLUDE THAT AMPHIBIANFOLK CAN BE CONSIDERED BIOLOGICALLY EQUIVALENT, AND IN SOME WAYS POSSIBLY SUPERIOR, TO MAMMALIAN HUMANS.

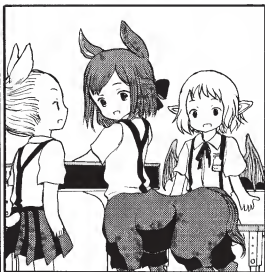
UNLIKE TYPICAL AMPHIBIANS, THEIR SKIN ISN'T A MUCUS MEMBRANE--THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO TOLERATE DRY CONDITIONS, ALBEIT IN A LIMITED FASHION. THEIR EYES ARE POSITIONED CLOSER TO THE FRONT OF THEIR HEADS THAN IS SEEN IN FROGS, GIVING THEM EXCELLENT BINOCULAR VISION. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THEY ARE HOMEOTHERMIC AND JUST AS INTELLIGENT AS MAMMALIAN HUMANS. THEIR RELATIVELY PRIMITIVE WAY OF LIFE SEEMS TO BE DUE TO THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, WHICH WILL BE EXPLAINED LATER, RATHER THAN BECAUSE THEY ARE SOMEHOW INFERIOR. THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEM INFERIOR SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THERE ARE MAMMALIAN HUMANS LIVING RELATIVELY PRIMITIVELY OUTSIDE OF THE CULTURAL CENTERS OF CIVILIZATION, AND SOME WHO ARE INTELLECTUALLY IGNORANT WITHIN.



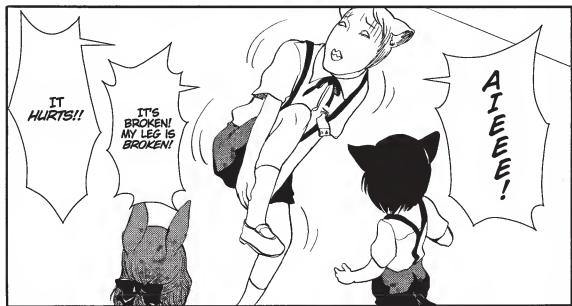
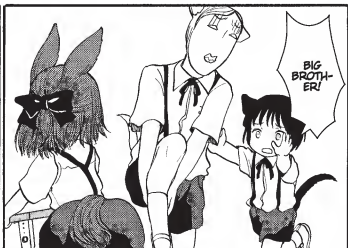
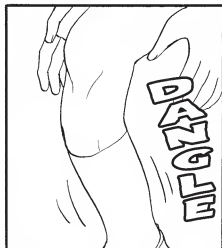
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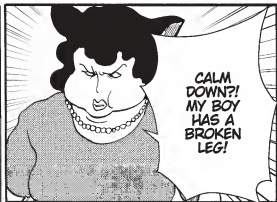
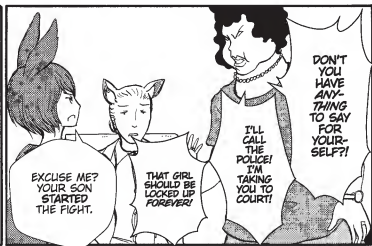














CALL THE
POLICE
IF YOU
WISH, BUT
I SUSPECT
THEY'D FIND
YOUR CHILD
AT FAULT.



I
SINCERELY
DOUBT SHE'D
PICK A FIGHT
WITH A FIFTH-
GRADE BOY
WHO'S MUCH
BIGGER
THAN HER.

LET'S
LOOK AT
THE FACTS.
SHE MAY BE
STRONG, BUT
SHE'S STILL
A FIRST-
GRADER.



HAVE YOU
HEARD THE
EXPRESSION,
"YOU REAP
WHAT YOU
SOW"?



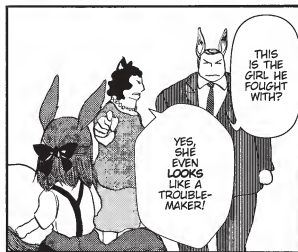
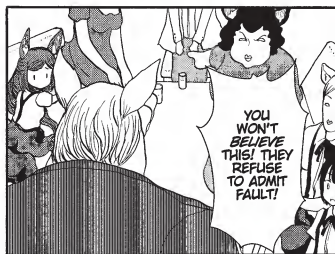
BUT IT'S
MY SON
WHO'S
BEEN
INJURED!



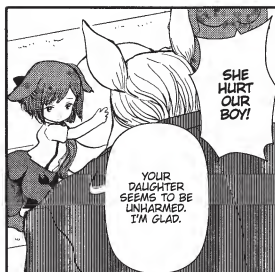
THOUGH,
I DON'T
THINK
THAT THEIR
DECISION WILL
LEAD TO
REMORSE
OR THE
PREVENTION
OF FUTURE
INCIDENTS.

MA'AM,
YOU NEED
TO CALM
DOWN.
WE'LL
HAVE THE
POLICE
SETTLE
THIS.

OH,
YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
SO
SMART,
DON'T
YOU?!

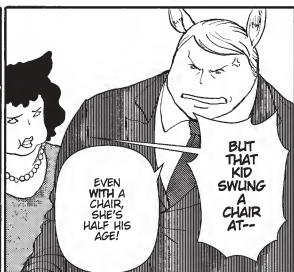






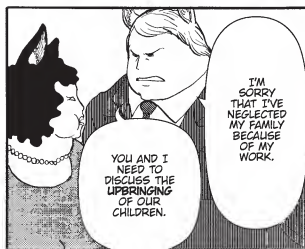
**SHE
HURT
OUR
BOY!**

YOUR
DAUGHTER
SEEMS TO BE
UNHARMED.
I'M GLAD.



EVEN
WITH A
CHAIR,
SHE'S
HALF HIS
AGE!

**BUT
THAT
KID
SWUNG
A
CHAIR
AT--**



I'M
SORRY
THAT I'VE
NEGLECTED
MY FAMILY
BECAUSE
OF MY
WORK.

YOU AND I
NEED TO
DISCUSS THE
UPBRINGING
OF OUR
CHILDREN.

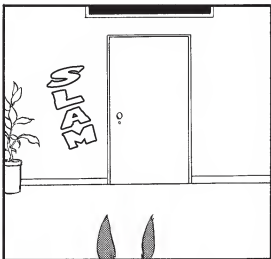
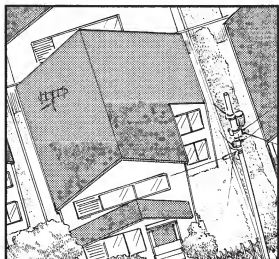


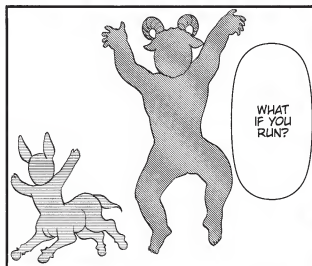
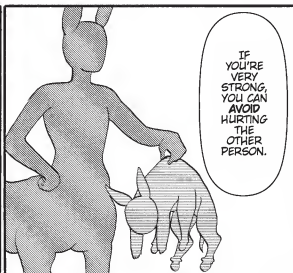
**WHOSE
SIDE
ARE
YOU
ON?!**

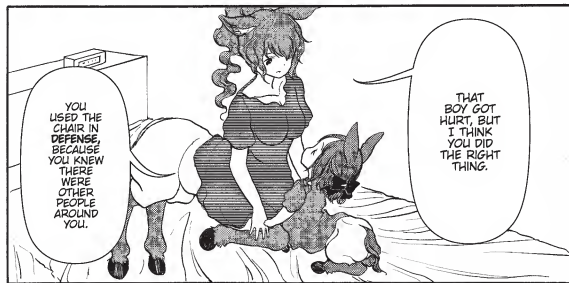
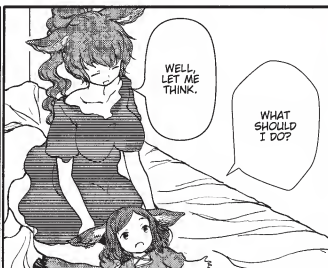
HAD HE
SERIOUSLY
INJURED
HER, THERE
WOULD HAVE
BEEN NO
WAY TO
APOLOGIZE.



WE
WANT TO
OFFER YOU
OUR FORMAL
APOLOGY, BUT
MY WIFE IS TOO
UPSET AT THE
MOMENT. WE'LL
HAVE TO EXCUSE
OURSELVES
FOR TODAY.









IF HE WAS A SMALL CHILD, HIS KICK WOULDN'T HURT YOU AS MUCH.



BUT DOING THAT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE THE RIGHT THING.



I KNOW. IT'S HARD TO FIND THE RIGHT ANSWER EVEN AFTER YOU GROW UP.



EVEN WHEN YOU DO THE RIGHT THING...



UHM.

HOW DO I THINK? HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S THE RIGHT DECISION?

THAT'S A GROWN-UP WAY OF NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION.



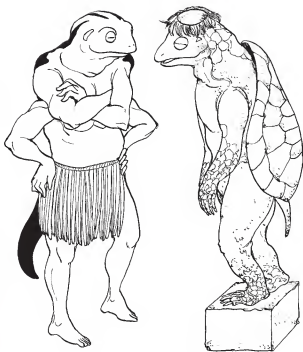
THERE ISN'T A CLEAR RIGHT ANSWER LIKE IN A BOOK OF RULES, BUT IT'S ALWAYS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

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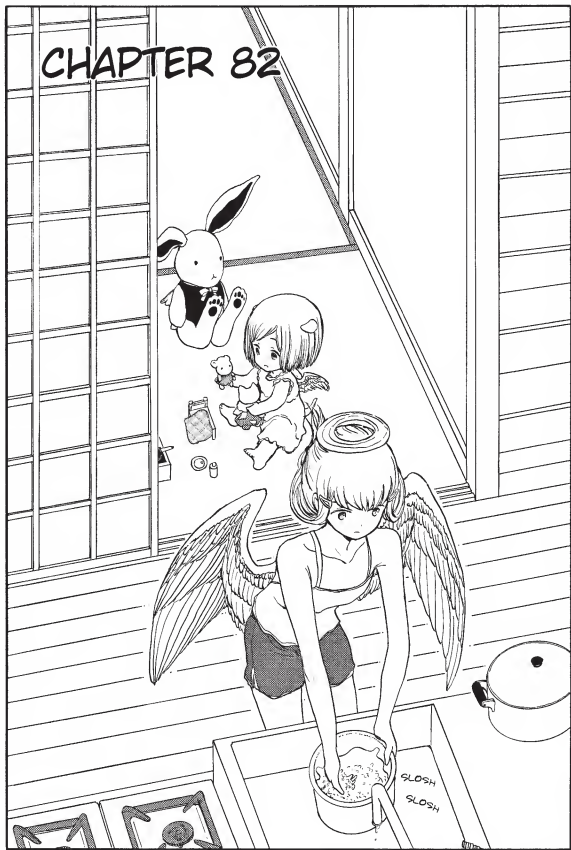
UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK, PART 3: ARE AMPHIBIANFOLK KAPPA?

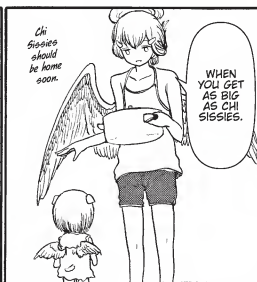
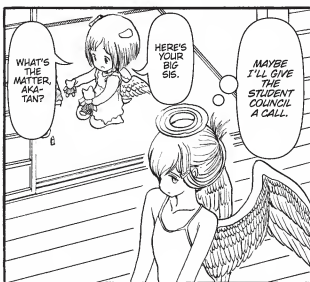
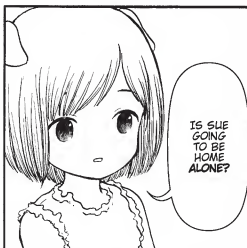
WHILE A KAPPA MIGHT BE CLASSIFIED AS A KIND OF AMPHIBIANFOLK IF IT WERE REAL, THE TRUTH IS THAT KAPPA ONLY EXIST IN FOLKLORE AND MYTH. THIS CREATURE IS VERY POPULAR AND HAS BEEN OPENLY REPORTED BY THE MEDIA IN JAPAN, BUT JUST LIKE MOST URBAN LEGENDS AND HORROR STORIES, KAPPA ARE PURELY FICTIONAL. THERE'S NO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF ANY REAL AMPHIBIANFOLK IN JAPAN, SO IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THE LEGEND OF THE KAPPA AROSE FROM A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY SURROUNDING TRUE AMPHIBIANFOLK. IN FACT, SINCE KAPPA SUPPOSEDLY CAME IN VARIOUS FORMS RANGING FROM MONKEYS TO HUMAN-TURTLE CHIMERAS, THE MOST LIKELY HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THEIR MODERN IMAGE WAS CREATED BY AN ARTIST.

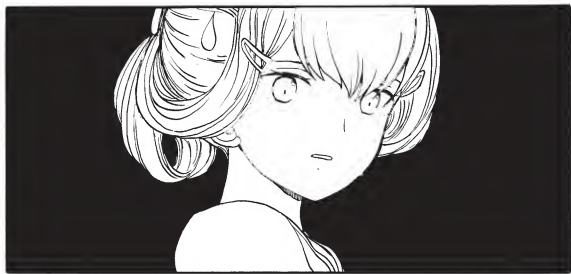
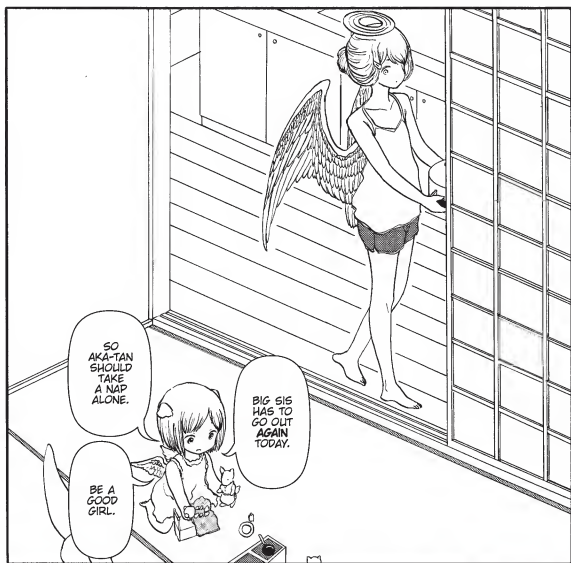
IT IS ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT THERE IS A SMALL POSSIBILITY THAT THE AMPHIBIANFOLK APPEARANCE HAD AN IMPACT ON THE IMAGE OF KAPPA--SPECIFICALLY, THAT THE ARTIST MAY HAVE SEEN AND BEEN INFLUENCED BY A DEPICTION OF AMPHIBIANFOLK. THEY WERE NOT DISCOVERED BY THE WESTERN WORLD UNTIL THE TURN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, BUT HAD BEEN KNOWN AS LEGEND OR UNIDENTIFIED MYSTERIOUS CREATURES THROUGHOUT SOUTH AMERICA, INCLUDING TAWANTINSUYU, FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THAT. IN PAINTINGS DONE BY ARTISTS FROM MAMMALIAN CIVILIZATION, THEY WERE OCCASIONALLY DEPICTED AS HIDDEN SYMBOLIC ICONS OF PRIMITIVE CHARACTERS.

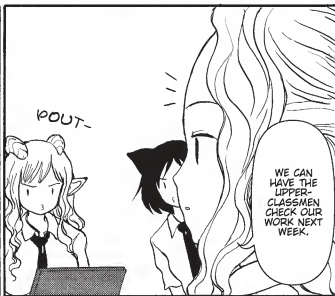
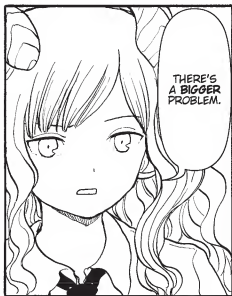
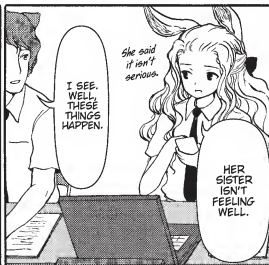
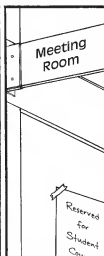
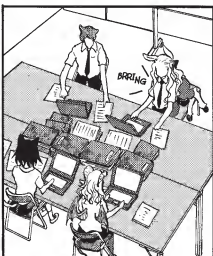
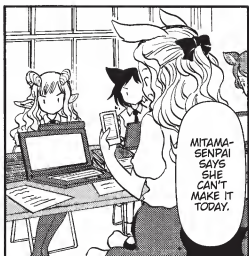


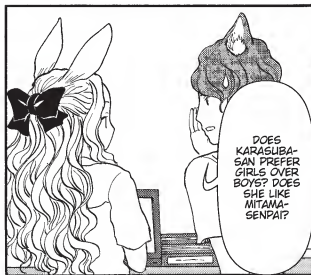
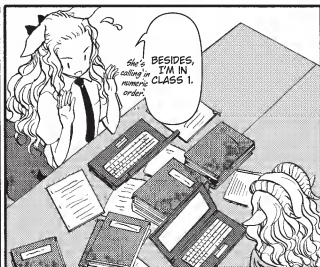
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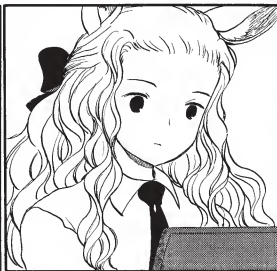
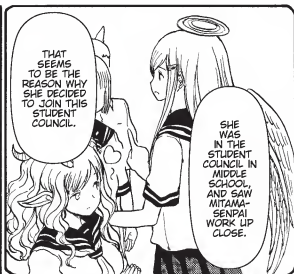
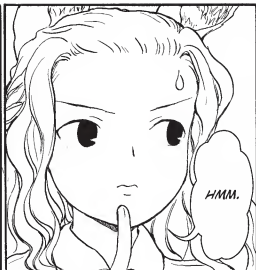


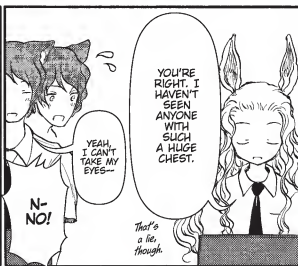
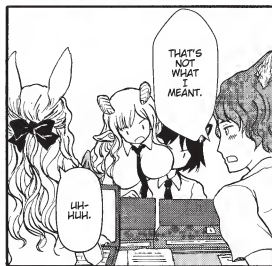
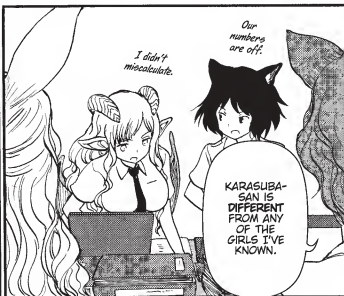


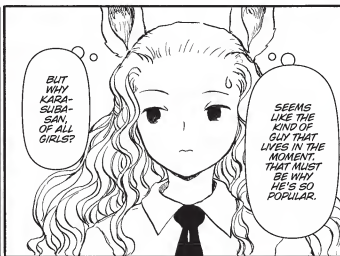
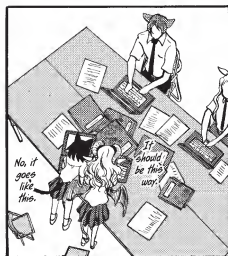
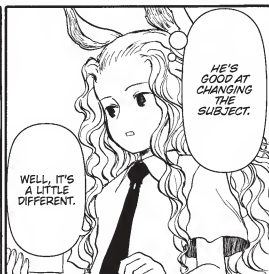


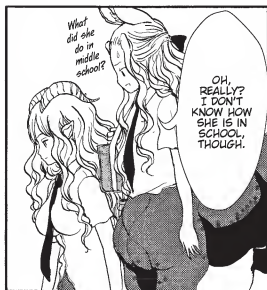
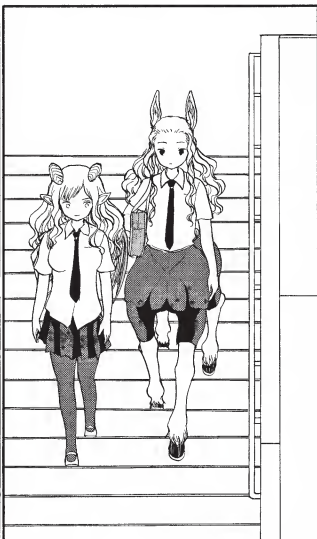


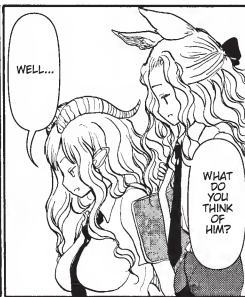
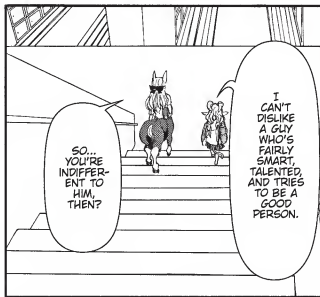
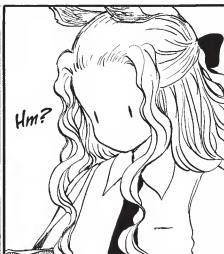
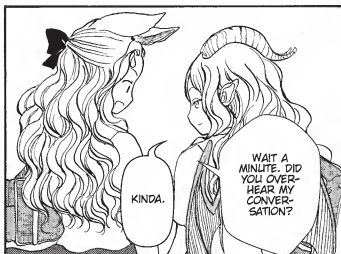












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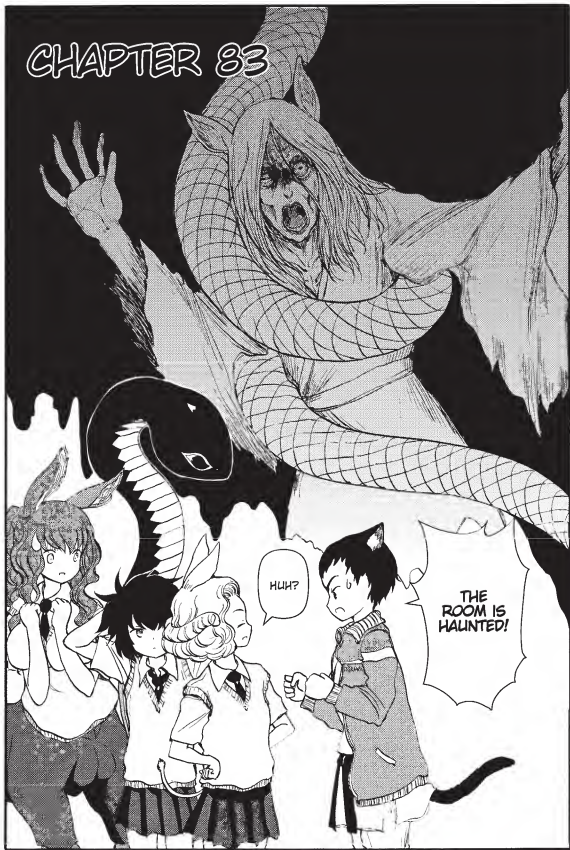
UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 4: AMPHIBIANFOLK SOCIETY

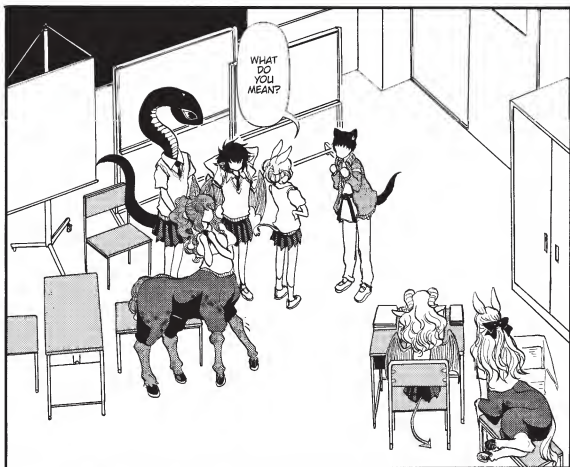
AMPHIBIANFOLK DIDN'T HAVE A RECOGNIZED COUNTRY UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. IT'S BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE A TRIBAL SOCIETY, WITH EACH TRIBE MADE UP OF MULTIPLE FAMILIES THRIVING ON FISHING, HUNTING, AND GATHERING. THE FAMILY UNIT INCLUDES THE ENTIRE EXTENDED FAMILY RATHER THAN SIMPLY THE NUCLEAR FAMILY, AND THEIR REPRODUCTION IS PROLIFIC--IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR AN AMPHIBIANFOLK WOMAN TO HAVE MORE THAN TEN CHILDREN. THEIR TROPICAL RAINFOREST HOME IS NOT IDEAL FOR FARMING, AS IT IS DIFFICULT FOR CROPS TO RISE FROM MASSES OF DECOMPOSED FALLEN LEAVES. NEITHER POVERTY NOR SOCIAL STATUS WERE KNOWN TO THEM: IT WAS THE QUINT-ESSENTIAL PRIMITIVE FORAGING SOCIETY.

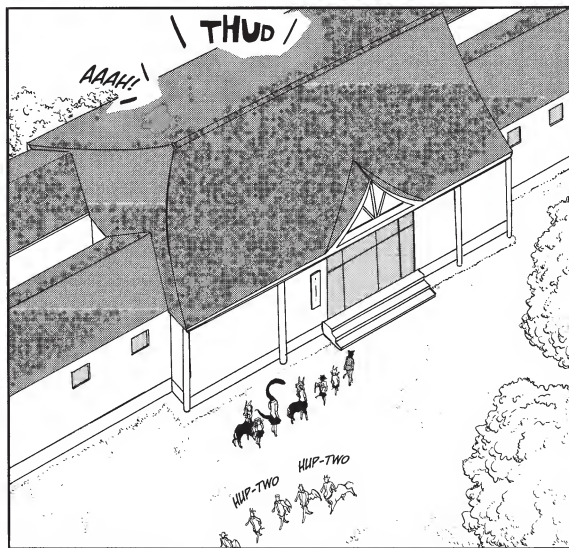
IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SIGNS OF THE TRIBES MERGING. THE REASON FOR THIS SEEMS TO BE RELATED TO FLOURISHING TRADE WITH MAMMALIANS, WHICH FOR THE AMPHIBIANFOLK BROUGHT ABOUT AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF SAVING THEIR WEALTH AND THE NEED FOR LEADERS WHO COULD HANDLE NEW SITUATIONS WITH WISDOM. THERE'S SPECULATION THAT THE AMPHIBIANFOLK-LED, ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITIA GROUP CTHULCTHUL IS CURRENTLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CREATING A UNIFIED STATE FOR THEIR PEOPLE. THEIR UNPRECEDENTED ATTACKS AGAINST MAMMALIAN SOCIETY AND MODERN MILITARY FORCE DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY HAVE STRONG ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP. SOME EXPERTS SAY THAT MAMMALIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF MODERN AMPHIBIANFOLK SOCIETY, INCLUDING CTHULCTHUL.

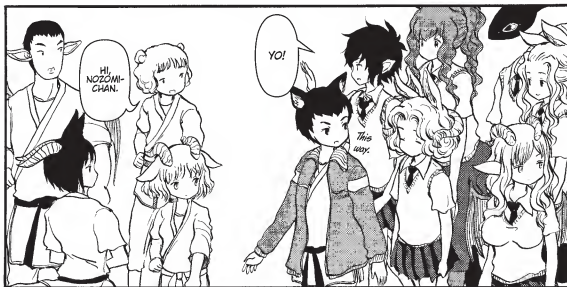
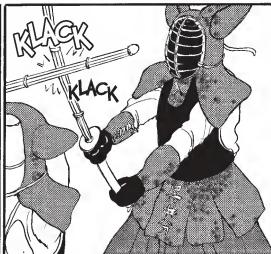


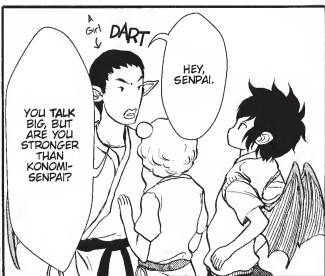
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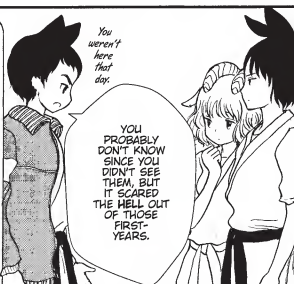


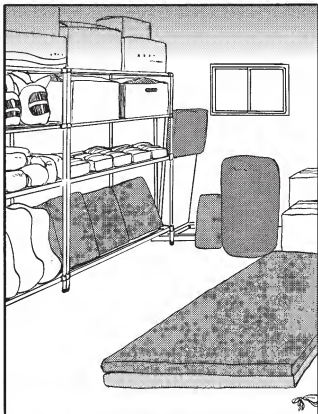












*It's
tricky
because
it sticks.*



UH, I'LL
OPEN
THE
DOOR.



COME
ON
IN.



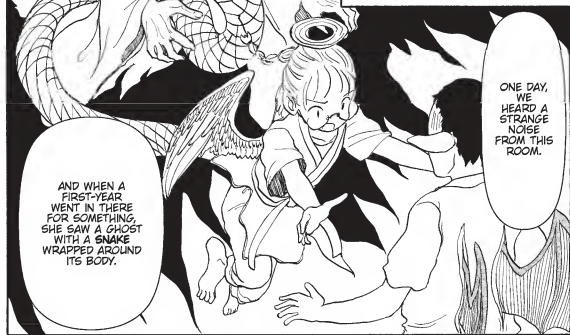
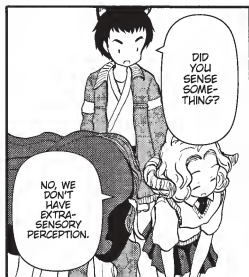
STUMBLE

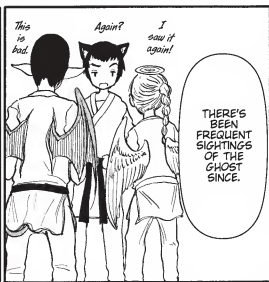
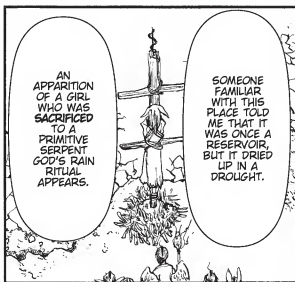
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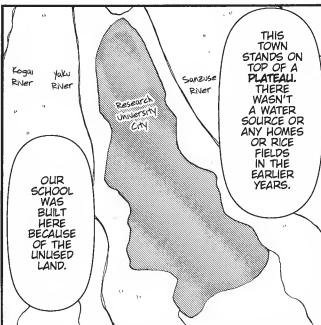


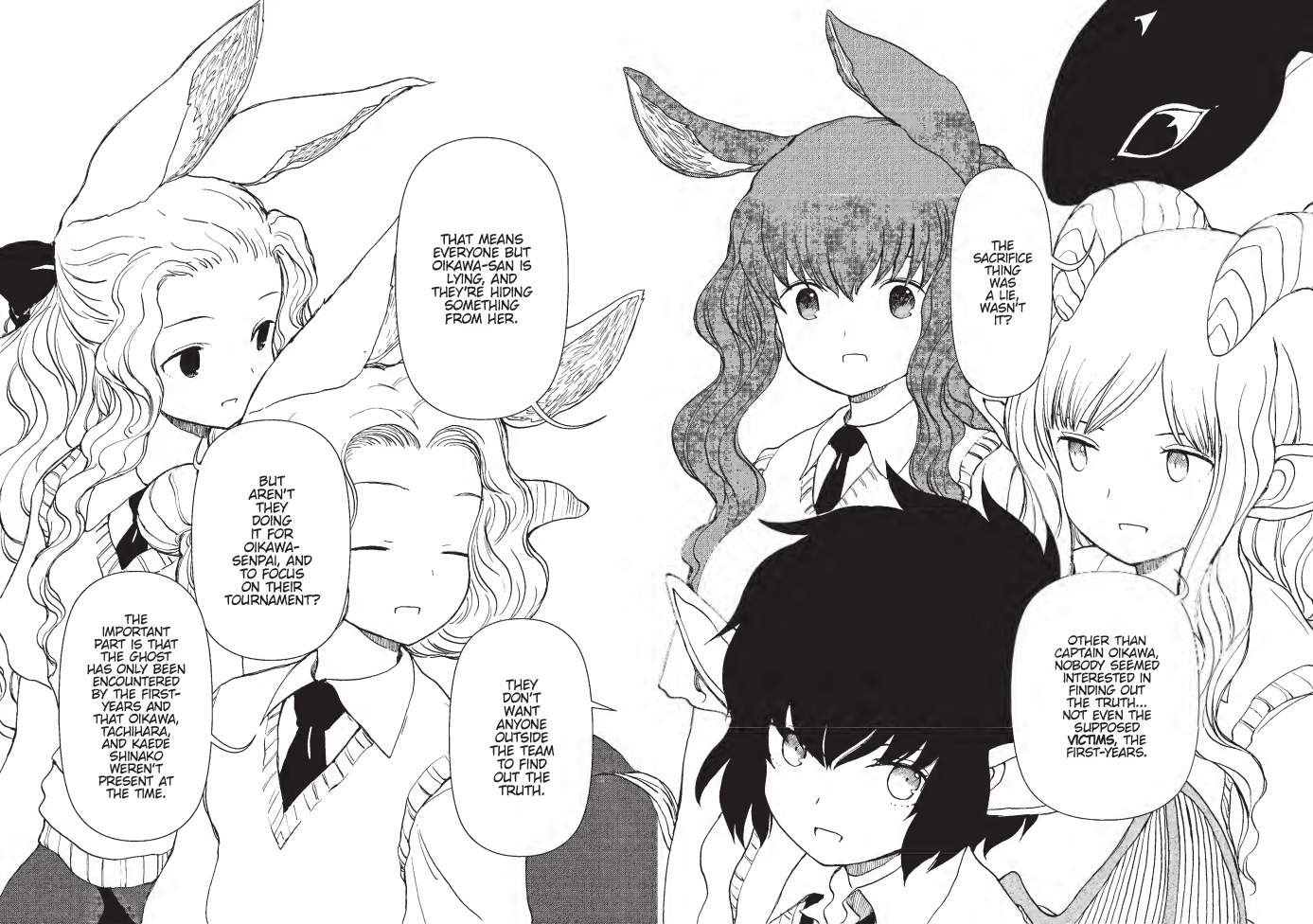
I'M
FINE,
SORRY.

YOU
OKAY?









THAT MEANS
EVERYONE BUT
OIKAWA-SAN IS
LYING, AND
THEY'RE HIDING
SOMETHING
FROM HER.

BUT
AREN'T
THEY
DOING
IT FOR
OIKAWA-
SENPAI, AND
TO FOCUS
ON THEIR
TOURNAMENT?

THE
IMPORTANT
PART IS THAT
THE GHOST
HAS ONLY BEEN
ENCOUNTERED
BY THE FIRST-
YEARS AND
THAT OIKAWA,
TACHIHARA,
AND KAEDE
SHINAKO
WEREN'T
PRESENT AT
THE TIME.

THEY
DON'T
WANT
ANYONE
OUTSIDE
THE TEAM
TO FIND
OUT THE
TRUTH.

THE
SACRIFICE
THING
WAS
A LIE,
WASN'T
IT?

OTHER THAN
CAPTAIN OIKAWA,
NOBODY SEEMED
INTERESTED IN
FINDING OUT
THE TRUTH...
NOT EVEN THE
SUPPOSED
VICTIMS, THE
FIRST-YEARS.

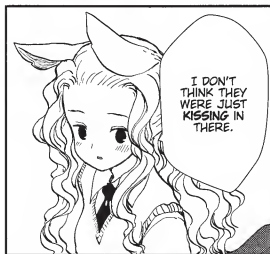


THE
FIRST-YEARS
DIDN'T WANT
OIKAWA-SENPAI
TO SEE THOSE
TWO SECRETLY
KISSING IN THE
EQUIPMENT
ROOM.

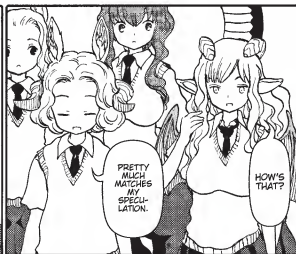


AND
OIKAWA-
SENPAI
LIKES ONE
OF THEM,
BUT SHE
DOESN'T
KNOW
THAT
THEY'RE
AN
ITEM.

SHINAKO-
SENPAI AND
TACHIHARA-
SENPAI
ARE IN A
RELATION-
SHIP.



I DON'T
THINK THEY
WERE JUST
KISSING IN
THERE.

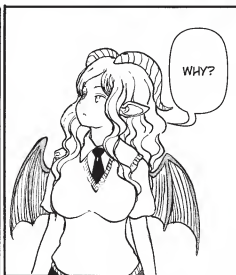


PRETTY
MUCH
MATCHES
MY
SPECU-
LATION.

HOW'S
THAT?



WELL,
SHINAKO-
SAN WENT
TO GET A
PAIR OF
PANTIES
SHE LEFT
BEHIND.



WHY?



HIME-
CHAN-
SENPAI
ISN'T THE
ONLY ONE
WHO'S IM-
PRESSIVE.



SHE
LOOKS
ABSENT-
MINDED,
BUT SHE'S
VERY
OBSER-
VANT.



I
LOVE
IT.

THERE
ARE A LOT
OF COOL
PEOPLE
AT THIS
SCHOOL.



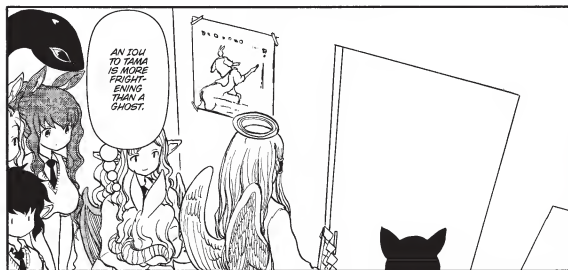
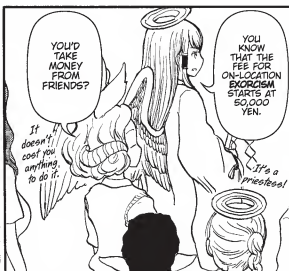
I DON'T
THINK WE
SHOULD TELL
OKAWA-SAN
ANYTHING,
FOR NOW.

WE'LL
CASUALLY
KEEP AN
EYE ON
SHINAKO-
SAN AND
TACHIHARA-
SAN.



LET'S
SEE...

SO,
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO
NOW?



A CentaUr's Life

UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 5: AMPHIBIANFOLK HISTORY

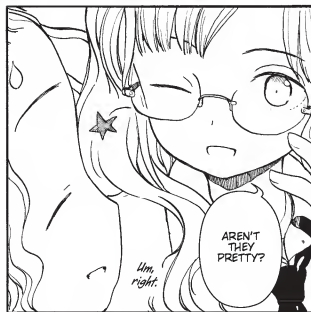
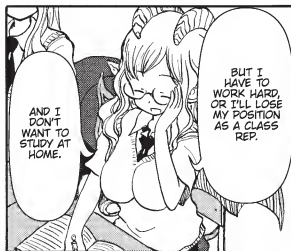
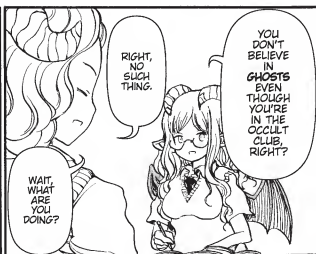
BECAUSE OF THEIR LIFESTYLE, THE HISTORY OF THE AMPHIBIANFOLK IS FULL OF MYSTERY. THEY LACK A WRITTEN LANGUAGE, THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE USED A FORM OF PICTOGRAPHY AS A CODE WITHIN TRIBES OR FAMILIES, AND THEIR RELIANCE ON PLANT-BASED MATERIAL RESOURCES MEANT THAT MOST STRUCTURES, TOOLS, AND ARTIFACTS WERE LOST TO DECOMPOSITION IN THEIR JUNGLE HOME. ONE CIVILIZATION, TAWANTINSUYU, SEEMS TO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH AMPHIBIANFOLK FOR CENTURIES, BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE A PRE-LITERATE CIVILIZATION UNTIL THE MODERN AGE, THEY WERE UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH INFORMATION. THEIR RECORDKEEPING WAS ALL DONE WITH A SYSTEM OF KNOTTED STRINGS CALLED QUIPU, AND THEIR ARTWORK HAD ONLY A HANDFUL OF DEPICTIONS OF AMPHIBIANFOLK. THE MOST NOTEWORTHY DISCOVERY IS THAT OF STONE SCULPTURES RESEMBLING AMPHIBIANFOLK WEARING MAMMALIAN MASKS, KNEELING AND HOLDING MAN-CATCHERS WITH TWO PAIRS OF CROSSED ARMS.

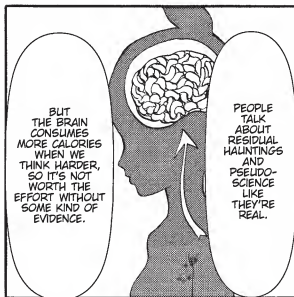
THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT AMPHIBIANFOLK DID INDEED HAVE THEIR OWN CIVILIZATION. IN THE GUALO GUABO RUINS IN THE FORMER RIVER A BASIN, RESEARCHERS DISCOVERED WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MEGALITHIC TEMPLE BUILT OF LARGE STONE SLABS AND A STONE STATUE OF A SNAKE-HEADED DEITY. THE STRUCTURE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BUILT ABOUT 5,000 YEARS AGO, AND STONE TOOLS OF EQUIVALENT AGE THAT WERE FOUND IN THE AREA WERE POSSIBLY USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE. THE STRUCTURE ITSELF LACKED THE REFINEMENT OF THOSE BUILT BY TAWANTINSUYU; THE TOOLS DISCOVERED WERE MORE SUITED TO AMPHIBIANFOLK HANDS THAN THOSE OF MAMMALIANS; THE SYMBOLS ENGRAVED IN THE GOD STATUE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE FORMERLY USED BY THE CTOLOCTOL AMPHIBIANFOLK TRIBE; THESE STRONG PIECES OF EVIDENCE SUGGEST THAT THESE RUINS WERE LIKELY BUILT BY AMPHIBIANFOLK. WHETHER THIS CIVILIZATION WAS ABANDONED OR SIMPLY MOVED ELSEWHERE REMAINS AN UNSOLVED RIDDLE.

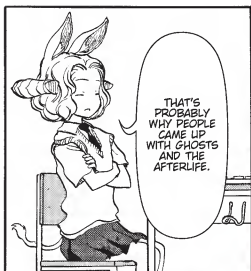


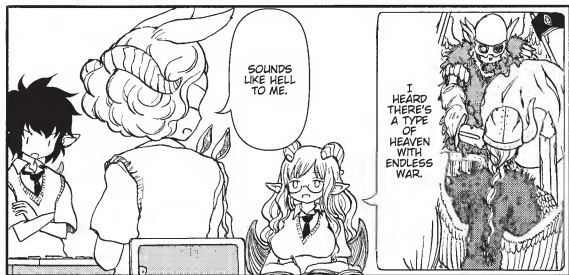
CHAPTER 84

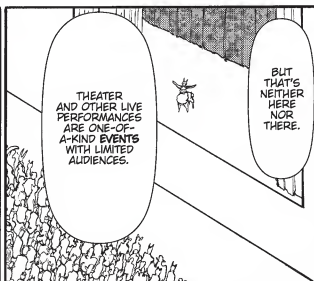
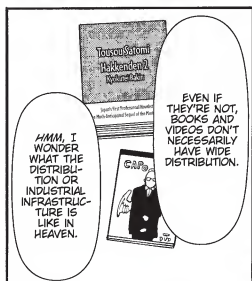
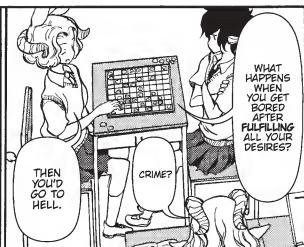


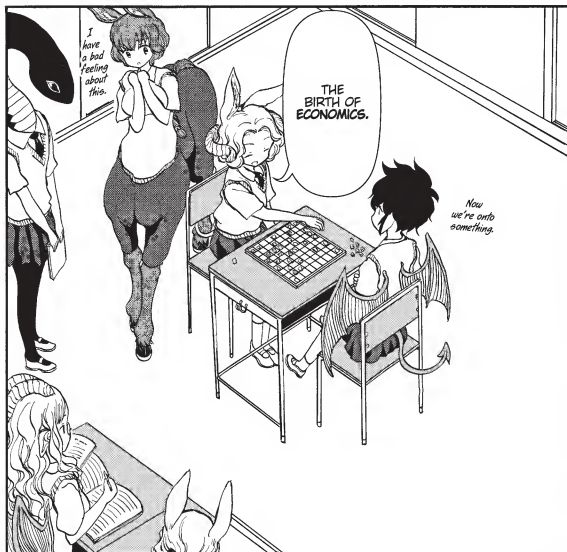
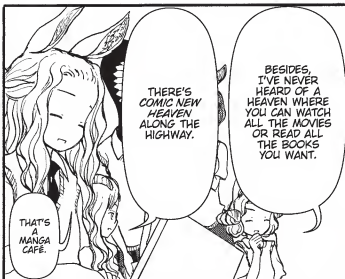
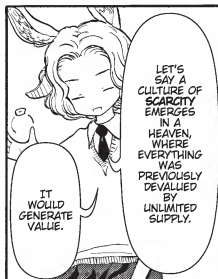


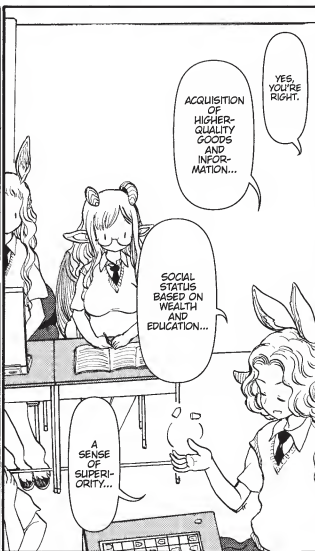
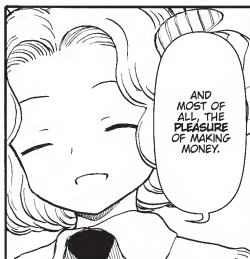
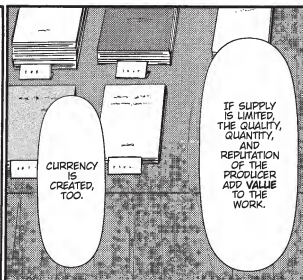












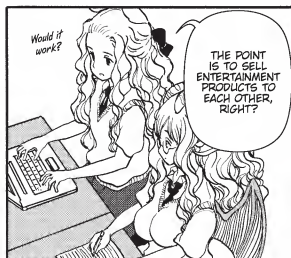


NOT
BEING
ABLE
OBTAIN
THINGS
THAT
OTHERS
ALREADY
ENJOY IS A
TORTUOUS
HELL.



IT'S
PROBABLY
AGONIZING.

I
MENTION
THE
PLEASURE
OF MAKING
MONEY, BUT
IT CAN'T BE
THAT FUN.



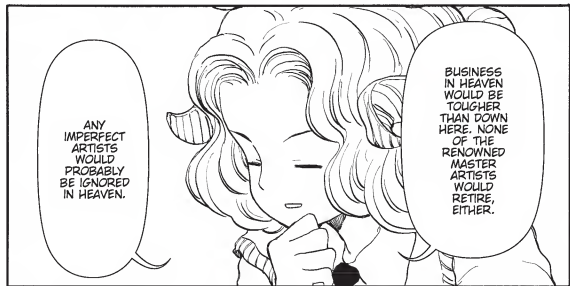
THE POINT
IS TO SELL
ENTERTAINMENT
PRODUCTS TO
EACH OTHER,
RIGHT?

Would it
work?



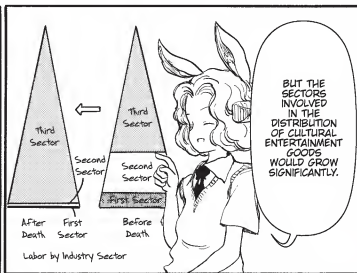
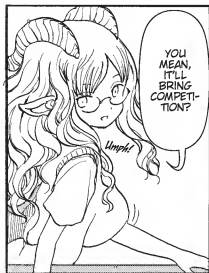
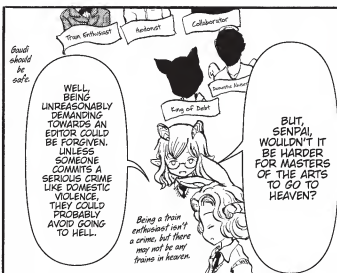
AND
THEY'D
HAVE
EXTRA
TIME ON
THEIR
HANDS,
TOO.

IT
WOULD
COMPEL
ANYONE TO
START A
BUSINESS.



ANY
IMPERFECT
ARTISTS
WOULD
PROBABLY
BE IGNORED
IN HEAVEN.

BUSINESS
IN HEAVEN
WOULD BE
TOUGHER
THAN DOWN
HERE. NONE
OF THE
RENOWNED
MASTER
ARTISTS
WOULD
RETIRE,
EITHER.



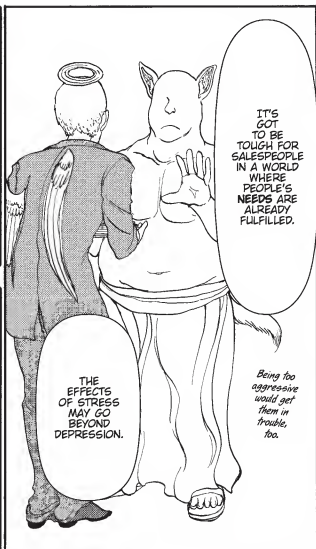


THAT'S
NOT
GOOD.



WHILE
THEY'RE
FACED
WITH
ENDLESS
BORE-
DOM.

BUT
EITHER
WAY,
THEY'D
NOTICE
OTHER
PEOPLE
HAVING
FUN.



IT'S
GOT
TO BE
TOUGH
FOR
SALESPEOPLE
IN A WORLD
WHERE
PEOPLE'S
NEEDS ARE
ALREADY
FULFILLED.

THE
EFFECTS
OF STRESS
MAY GO
BEYOND
DEPRESSION.

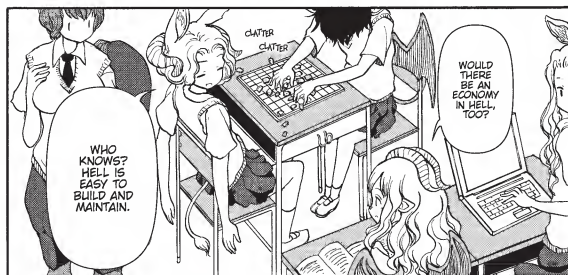
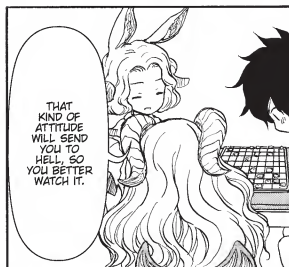
Being too
aggressive
would get
them in
trouble,
too.



THE ONLY
ESCAPE
WOULD
BE TO BUILD
A MONASTERY
SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY
FROM TOWN
AND PRACTICE
ZEN.

AND THEFT
SENDS YOU
STRAIGHT
TO HELL.
THAT'S AN
ETERNAL
SWEATSHOP.

IT'S
HELL, NO
MATTER
HOW YOU
DICE IT.



A CentaUr's Life

UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 6: THE EVOLUTION OF AMPHIBIANFOLK

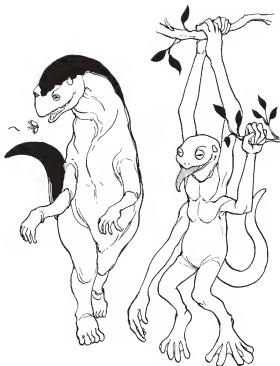
JUST AS MAMMALIANS SLOWLY EVOLVED FROM AMPHIBIANS, AMPHIBIANFOLK WENT THROUGH MANY STAGES PRIOR TO REACHING THEIR PRESENT FORM. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVEN'T FOUND MUCH EVIDENCE OF THESE TRANSITIONAL STAGES, PARTIALLY BECAUSE ONE OF THEIR EVOLUTIONARY FORMS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LIVED IN AREAS OF DEEP JUNGLE THAT ARE STILL UNEXPLORED. DUE TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS LOCATION AND TIME PERIOD, FOSSILIZATION WAS QUITE RARE, AND ONGOING REGIONAL CONFLICTS CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR SCIENTISTS ATTEMPTING TO INVESTIGATE THE FEW SPECIMENS THAT WERE FOUND. EVENTUALLY, BETWEEN THOSE VERY FEW RECOVERED FOSSILS AND DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE FORM OF THE MODERN SPECIES, SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE TO FILL IN THE GAPS.

DINOSALAMANDERS:

BIPEDAL AMPHIBIANS THAT APPEARED ON GONDWANA IN THE LATE CRETACEOUS PERIOD. THEY WERE INDEED AMPHIBIANS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD THE PHYSIQUE OF A TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL, THE HEIGHT OF A LARGE DOG, AND THE ELONGATED FACE AND ERECT HIND LIMBS OF A DINOSAUR. BECAUSE THEIR OFFSPRING WERE STILL RAISED IN THE WATER, THE SPECIES REMAINED AMPHIBIAN. THEY WENT EXTINCT AT THE END OF THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD.

MONKEY FROGS:

EVOLUTIONARY FORM OF MODERN ARBOREAL AMPHIBIANS STILL LIVING IN THE JUNGLES OF THE RIVER A BASIN. ALTHOUGH THEY'RE CALLED FROGS, THEY HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON WITH THE MODERN FROGS IN ORDER ANURA, INSTEAD RELATING MUCH MORE CLOSELY TO THE PRIMITIVE AMPHIBIANS OF ORDER TEMNOSPONDYLII. THEIR ADHESIVE DISC, WHICH DID LITTLE TO CARRY THEIR 20-40 KG BODY WEIGHT, WAS PRONE TO DEGENERATION DUE TO SPINAL COMPRESSION. THEY USED THEIR OPPOSABLE THUMBS AND FINGERS TO GRASP TWIGS AND VINES. THEY WERE SKILLFUL IN SWIMMING AND CATCHING PREY UNDERWATER, AND THEY LIVED IN TREES WHERE FEWER PREDATORS EXISTED.



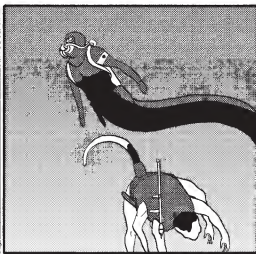
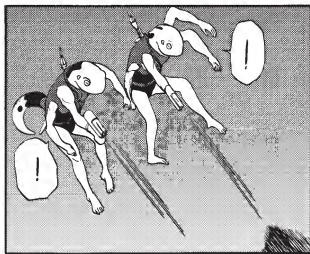
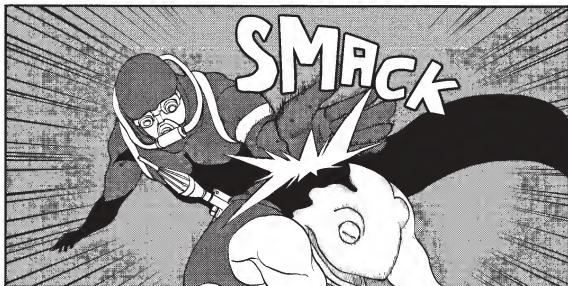
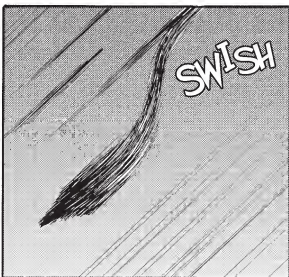
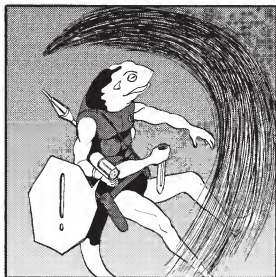
DINOSALAMANDER

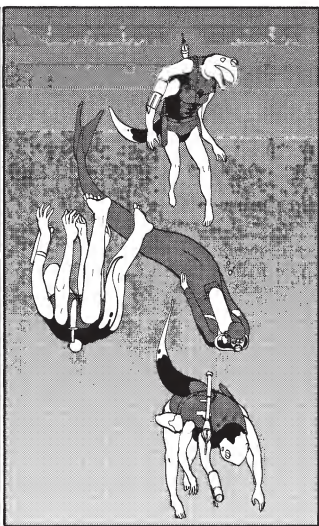
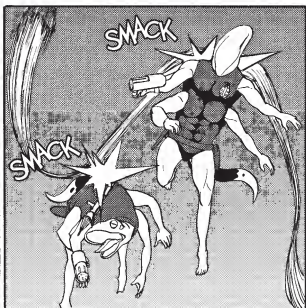
MONKEY FROG

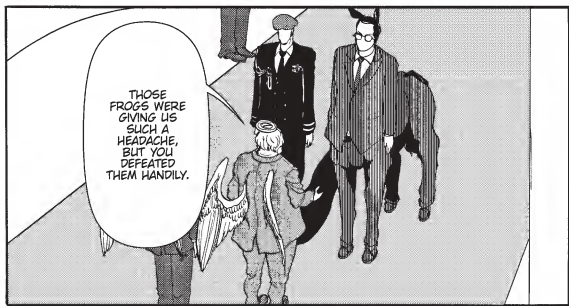
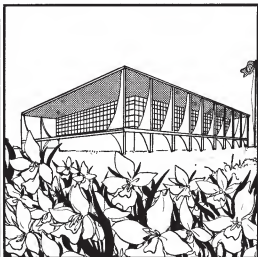
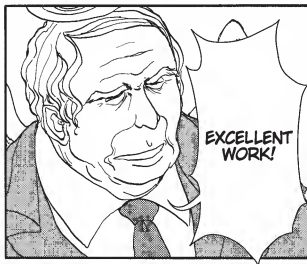
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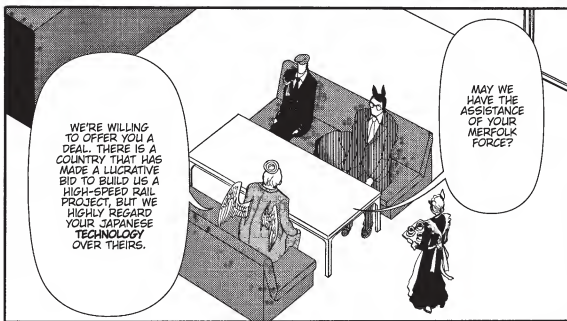
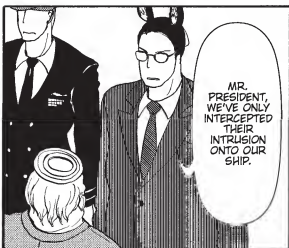


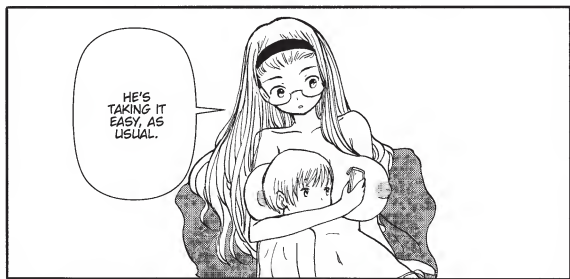
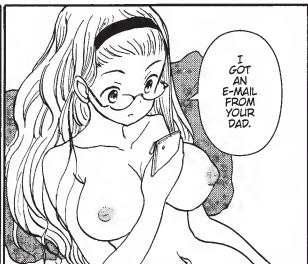
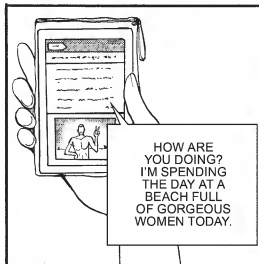
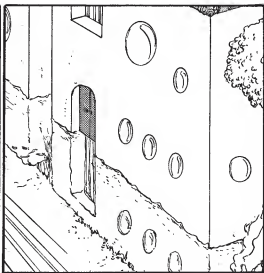
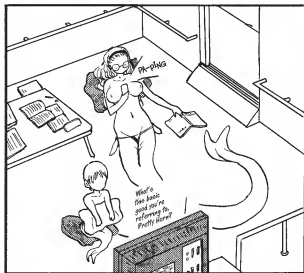


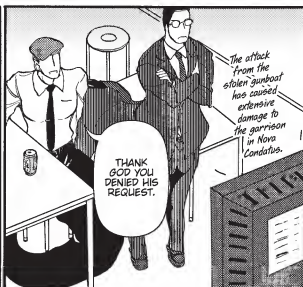
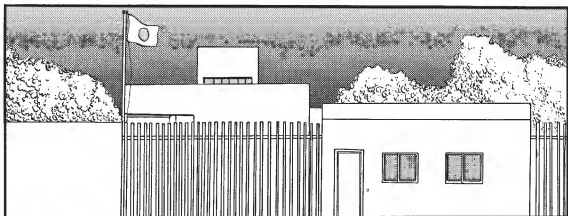












A CentaUr's Life

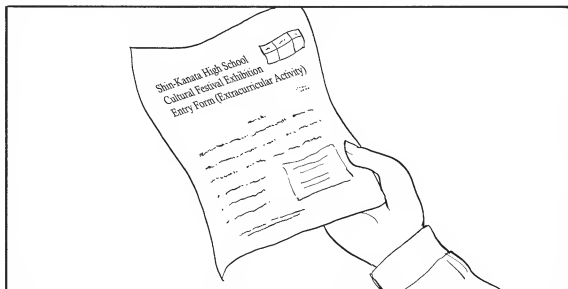
UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 7: BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AMPHIBIANFOLK

AS MENTIONED BEFORE, AMPHIBIANFOLK HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR AMPHIBIAN CHARACTERISTICS AND CAN NO LONGER BE TECHNICALLY CLASSIFIED AS AMPHIBIANS. THIS IS THE REASON WHY WE USE THE TERM "EVOLUTIONARY AMPHIBIAN" TO REFER TO THEM, BUT BIOLOGISTS MAY DISAGREE WITH THAT CLASSIFICATION AS WELL. IT'S DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN GENETIC SAMPLES FOR THEIR STUDIES FROM INTELLIGENT SPECIES, AND THE POOR CONDITIONS IN AMPHIBIANFOLK NEIGHBORHOODS ARE DELAYING THE WORK AS WELL.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN IS THAT AMPHIBIANFOLK SKIN ISN'T A MUCUS MEMBRANE, WHICH ENABLES THEM TO TOLERATE DRY CONDITIONS FAR BETTER THAN TYPICAL AMPHIBIANS. HOWEVER, PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO AN EXTREMELY DRY ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS A DESERT, CAN CAUSE BURN-LIKE SYMPTOMS THAT COULD POTENTIALLY LEAD TO DEATH. THIS IS WHY AMPHIBIANFOLK TEND TO REMAIN IN THE JUNGLE, AND IS PERHAPS WHAT PREVENTED THEM FROM DEVELOPING THEIR CIVILIZATION IN THE WAY THAT MAMMALIANS DID. BECAUSE THEY'RE ESSENTIALLY CONFINED TO THEIR HABITABLE ZONE, THEY HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES.

THE AMPHIBIANFOLK ARE WELL-BUILT AND ATHLETIC COMPARED TO MAMMALIAN HUMANS. THEY HAVE FOUR ARMS THAT ARE ALL EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG, MOST LIKELY DEVELOPED BY THEIR HUNTING AND VIGOROUS SWIMMING HABITS. RESEARCH ON THE INDIGENOUS FISHERMEN IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST REVEALED THAT THEIR ARMS AND MUSCLE ATTACHMENTS WERE TWICE AS LARGE AS THOSE OF AN ORDINARY MAMMALIAN HUMAN, POSSIBLY DUE TO ROWING BOATS THROUGH ROUGH SEAS. THEIR EXCELLENT DYNAMIC VISUAL ACUITY AND REFLEXES MAY ALSO COME FROM BEING NATURAL HUNTERS. AMPHIBIANFOLK ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE SEEMS LACKLUSTER WHEN RUNNING ON A TRACK, BUT THEY MOVE VERY QUICKLY IN THE JUNGLE ENVIRONMENTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED. THEIR COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND PROCESSING SPEED IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT EXHIBITED BY THE MAMMALIAN HUMAN BRAIN.





CHAPTER 86









OH,
REALLY?

MY
CLASS IS
ACTUALLY
HAVING
AN ISSUE
WITH OUR
EXHIBIT.



NAH,
NOT
REALLY.

WHAT,
YOU
WANNA
DO
SOME-
THING
MORE
MOTIVAT-
ING?



WHAT'S
IT
ABOUT?

THAT'S
A
GOOD
ONE.



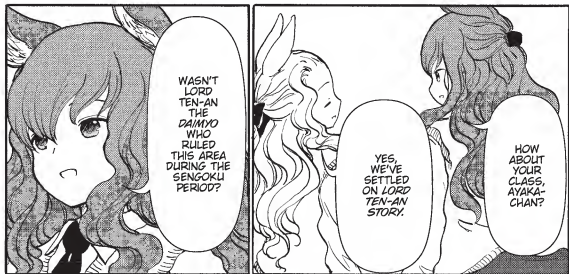
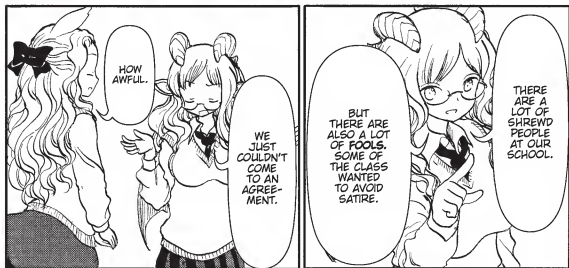
WE'RE
DOING
A PLAY
CALLED
MIRAGE.

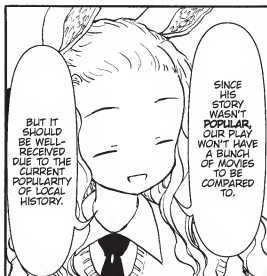
*First-
years
are
required
to do
a play.*



YOU KNOW
HOW CRITICS AND
OVERLY TALKATIVE
SALESMEN STICK
THEIR NOSES
IN EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS AND
ACT LIKE THEY
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING?

THERE'S
THIS BURGLAR
WHO BARRICADES
HIMSELF IN AND
ALLEGES RACIAL
ISSUES, AND THESE
CULTURAL FIGURES
TRY TO CONVINCE
HIM THAT THEY
UNDERSTAND
HIM.



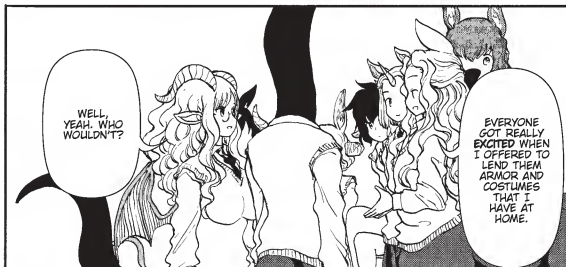


BUT IT SHOULD BE WELL-RECEIVED DUE TO THE CURRENT POPULARITY OF LOCAL HISTORY.

SINCE HIS STORY WASN'T POPULAR, OUR PLAY WON'T HAVE A BUNCH OF MOVIES TO BE COMPARED TO.



HE CAME FROM A NOTABLE FAMILY IN THE MEDIEVAL KANTO REGION, BUT HE WAS A SMALL-TIME SAMURAI IN JAPANESE HISTORY.



WELL, YEAH. WHO WOULDN'T?

EVERYONE GOT REALLY EXCITED WHEN I OFFERED TO LEND THEM ARMOR AND COSTUMES THAT I HAVE AT HOME.



I JUST MENTIONED IT A LITTLE WHILE BACK, THAT'S ALL.

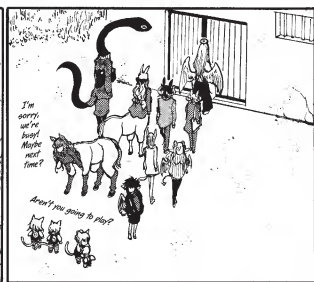


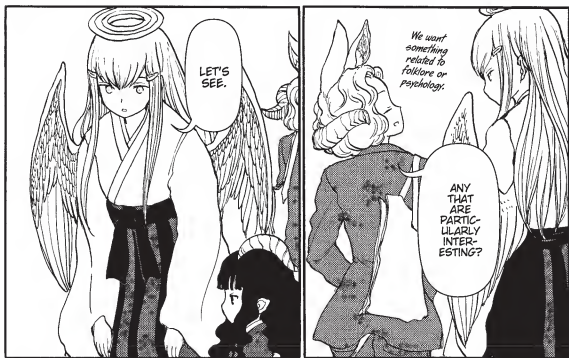
DON'T BE SILLY.

YOU'RE GOOD. DID YOU PLAN THIS?

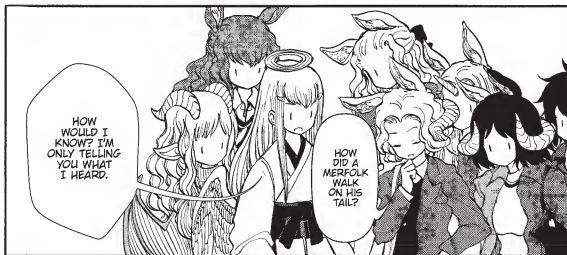
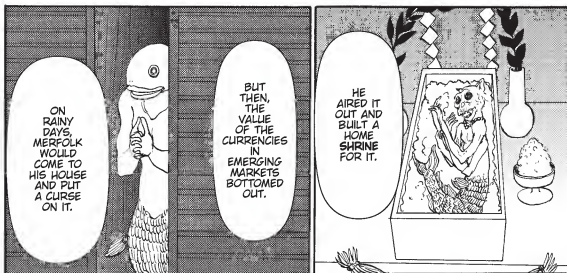


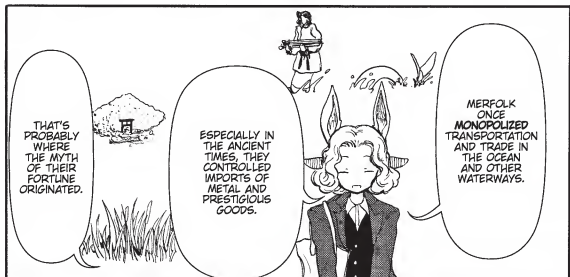
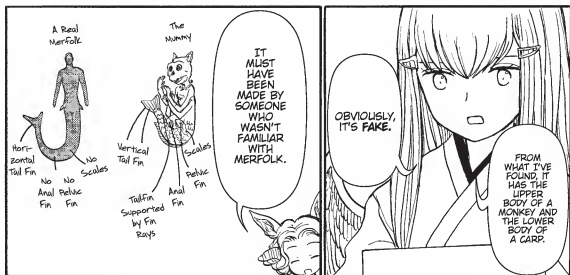


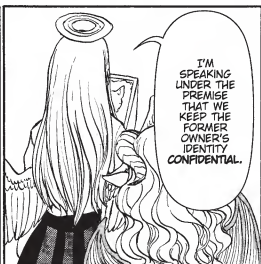


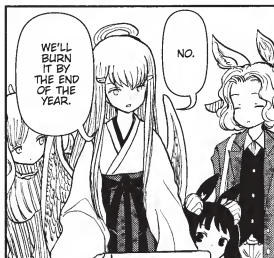
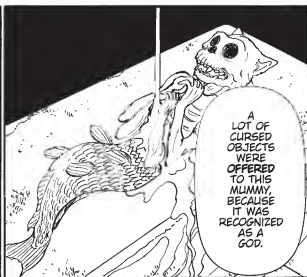




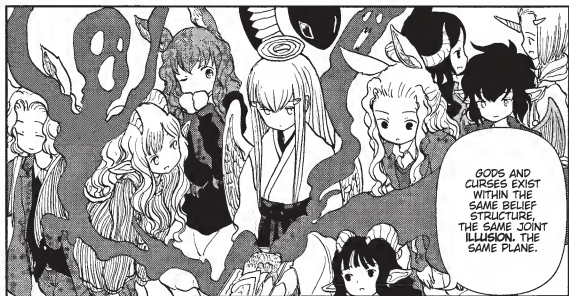
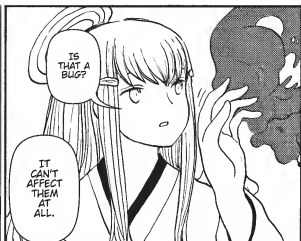


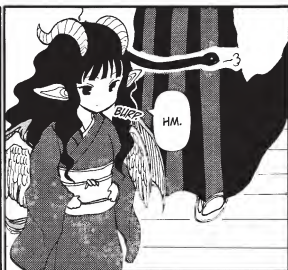
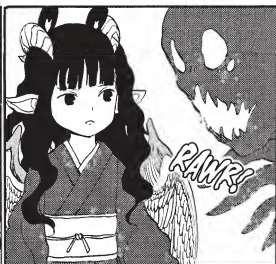


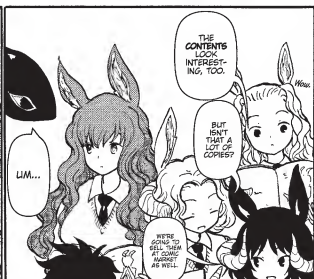
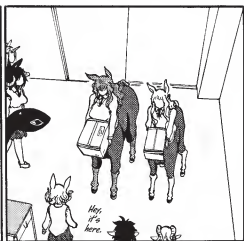












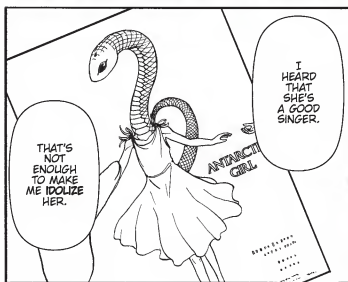
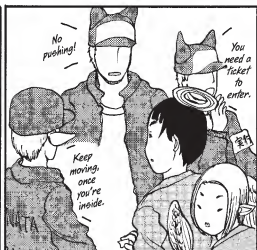
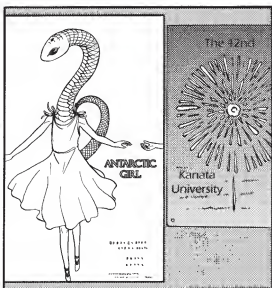
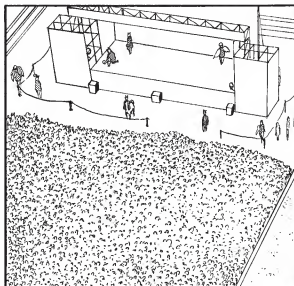
A CentaUr's Life

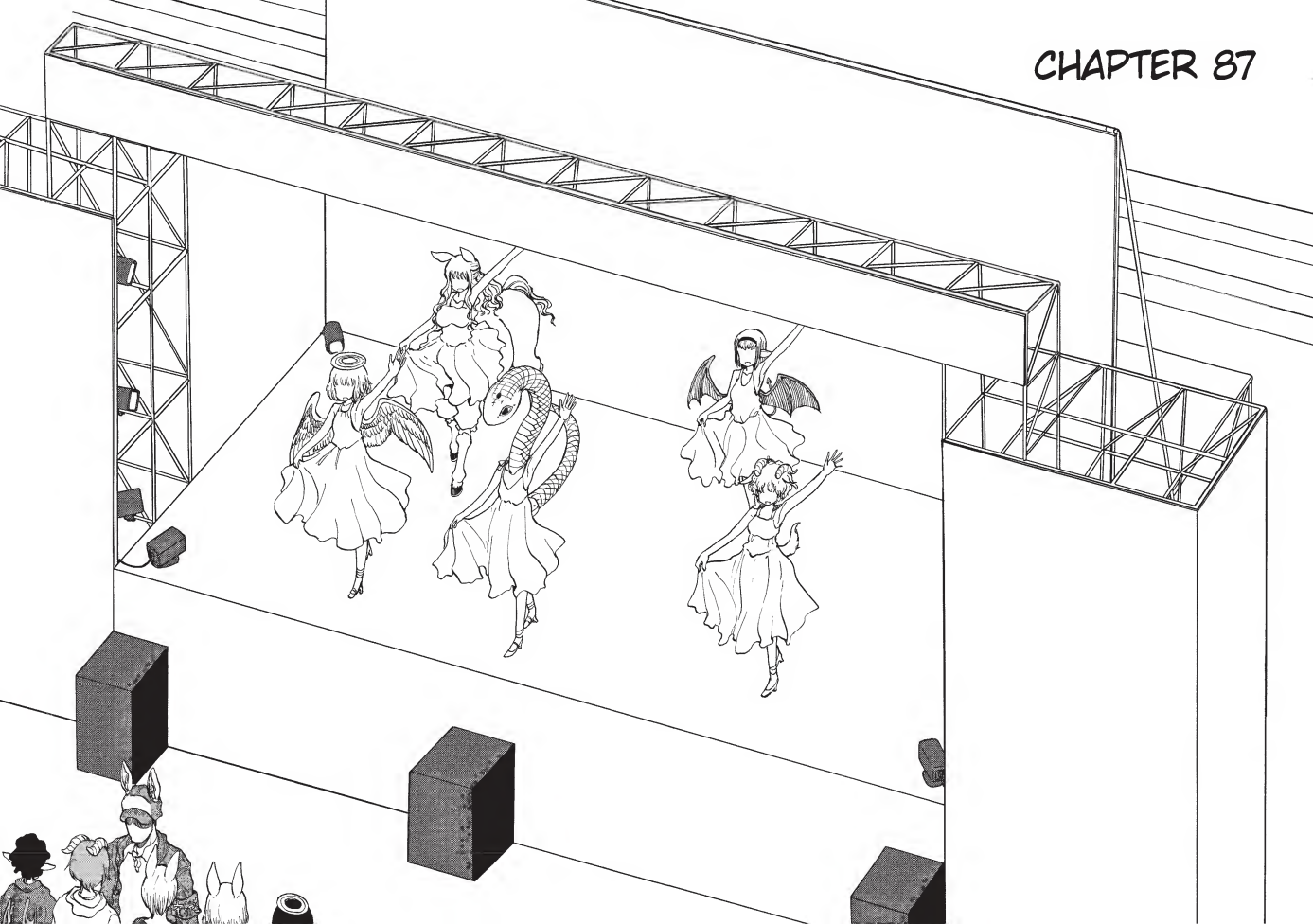
UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 8: THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITIA GROUP, CTHULCTHUL

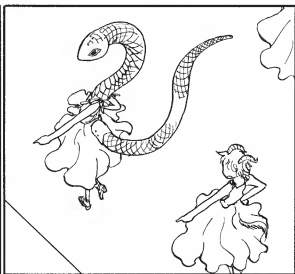
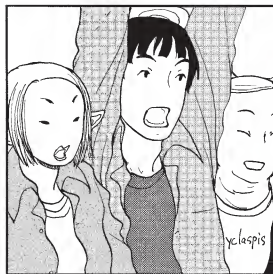
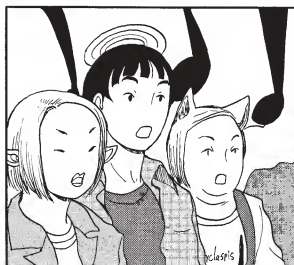
CTHULCTHUL IS AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITIA, FORMED BY AMPHIBIANFOLK, WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THEIR PEOPLE AND TO ACQUIRE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT. BUT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GROUP RAISES IMPORTANT QUESTIONS: HOW WERE THE DIVIDED AMPHIBIANFOLK TRIBES, WHO HAVE MAINTAINED A PALEOLITHIC LIFE-STYLE DESPITE THEIR RAPID MODERNIZATION, ABLE TO FORM A UNIFIED ORGANIZATION AND OBTAIN MODERN MILITARY-GRADE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT?

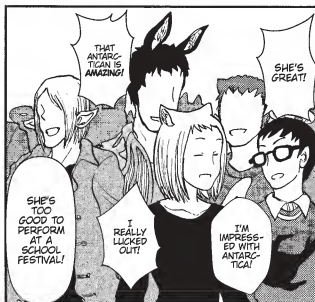
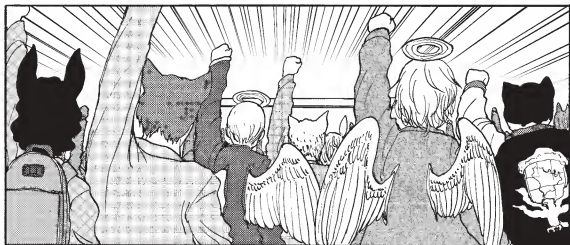
ONE THEORY IS THAT THEY ACQUIRED THE WEAPONRY WHEN THEY CHASED MAMMALIAN HUMANS OUT OF THEIR OCCUPATION ZONE, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE AN EXCELLENT HIDING PLACE FOR MAMMALIAN DRUG CARTELS AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERRILLAS. THE FACT THAT CTHULCTHUL'S EQUIPMENT VARIED FROM PERSON TO PERSON IN THE BEGINNING MAY LEND CREDENCE TO THIS THEORY. OTHERS SEE THIS AS A PROXY WAR BETWEEN TRADITIONAL NATIONS, INCLUDING TAWANTINSUYU, AND A RISING AGGRESSOR NATION ESTABLISHED BY CONQUISTADORS IN SOUTH AMERICA. YET ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT A PROMINENT AMPHIBIANFOLK ENTREPRENEUR, JEAN ROUSSEAU, ORGANIZED THE GROUP AND SECURED BACKING FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES. WHATEVER THE CASE, JAPAN HOPES ONLY FOR PEACE. PARTICIPATION IN A MILITIA GROUP THAT AGGRAVATES THE SITUATION SHOULD BE PROHIBITED BY LAW.

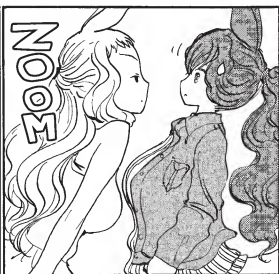
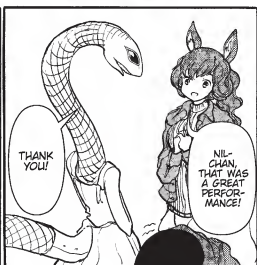
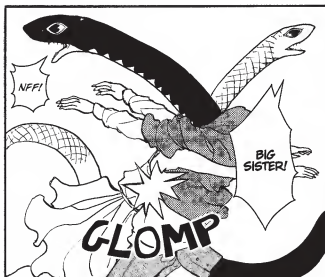


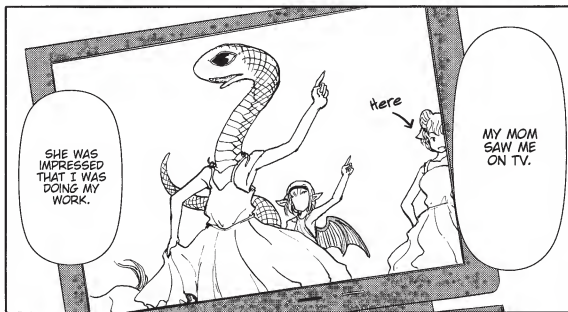
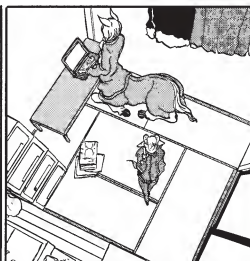
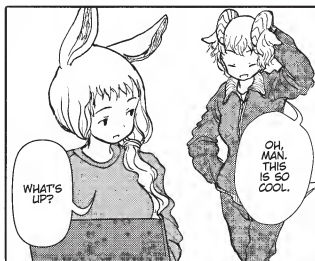
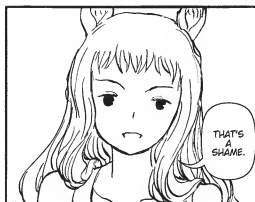


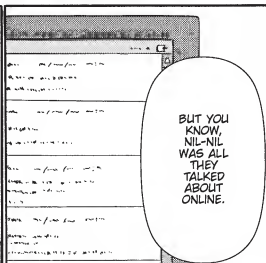


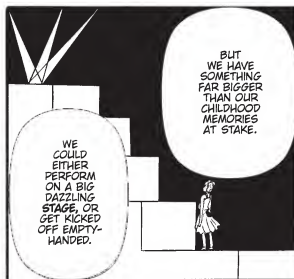
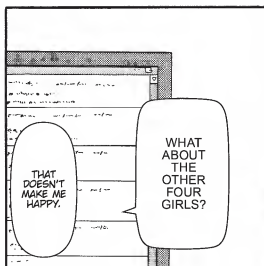


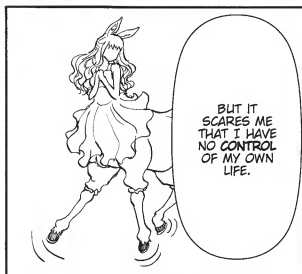
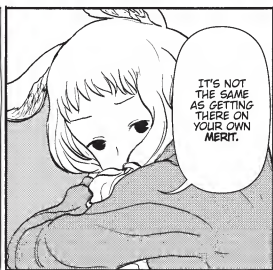
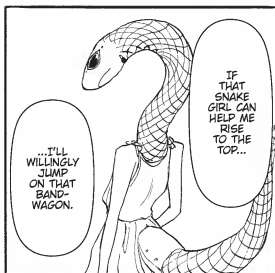


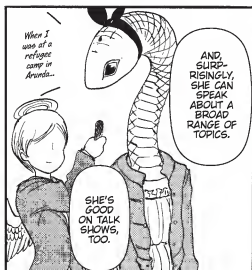












When I was at a refugee camp in Aranda...

AND, SURPRISINGLY, SHE CAN SPEAK ABOUT A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS.

SHE'S GOOD ON TALK SHOWS, TOO.



AND THEN THERE'S ME.

I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP UP WITH THIS.



NIL'S ABOVE AVERAGE-LOOKING.

SHE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON PEOPLE WILL STILL WANT TO SEE IN TEN OR TWENTY YEARS.

HER SINGING ABILITY IS BEYOND HUMAN LIMITS.

MOST OF ALL, COMING FROM ANTARCTICA DEFINITELY DRAWS INTEREST.



BUT I CHOSE TO DO THIS INSTEAD.

THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS NOT BE DEVOTED TO WHAT YOU WANT.

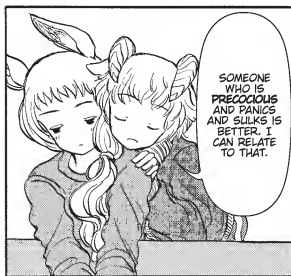
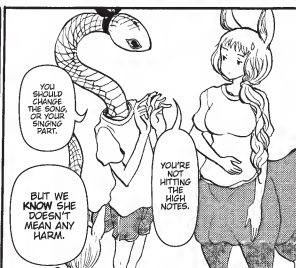
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE STUDIED THE FOURIER TRANSFORM INSTEAD OF SINGING AND DANCING.

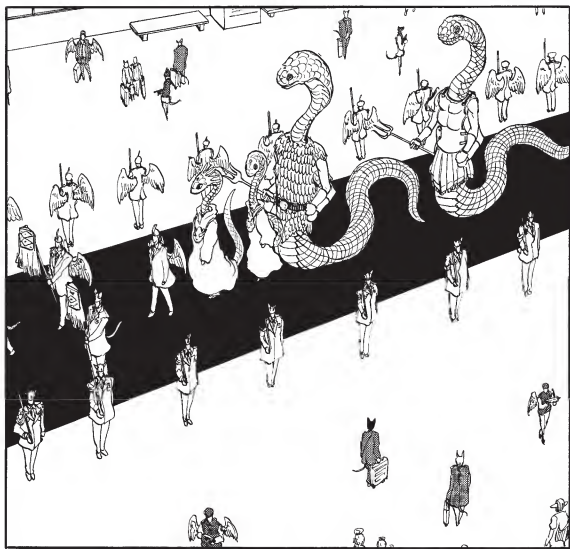
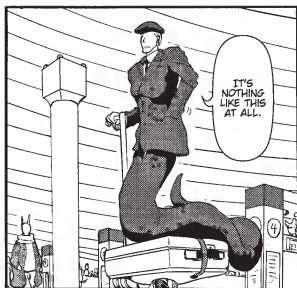
IF YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT, THE SOONER, THE BETTER.

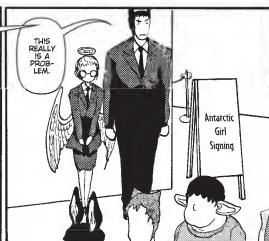
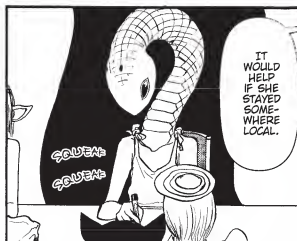
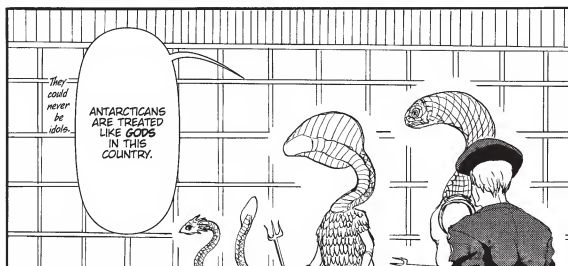


Want a sip?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE?



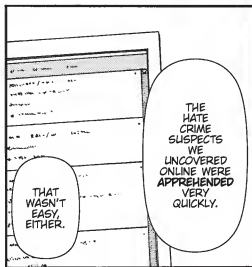






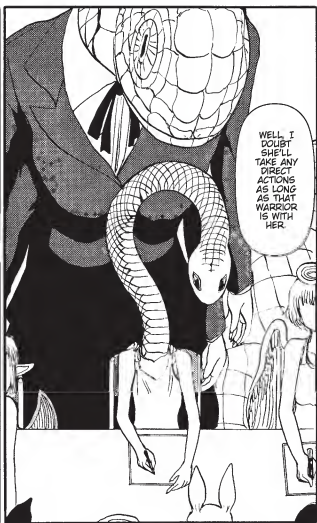
THERE'S A LOT OF SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE, TOO.

THE DRY CLEANING BILL FOR THEIR STAFF MUST BE HUGE.

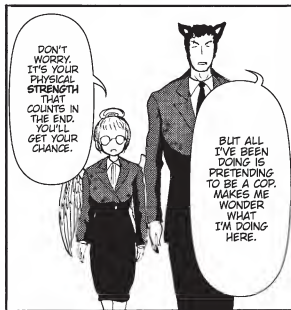


THAT WASN'T EASY, EITHER.

THE HATE CRIME SUSPECTS WE UNCOVERED ONLINE WERE APPREHENDED VERY QUICKLY.

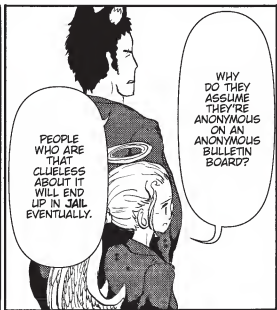


WELL, I DOUBT SHE'LL TAKE ANY DIRECT ACTIONS AS LONG AS THAT WARRIOR IS WITH HER.



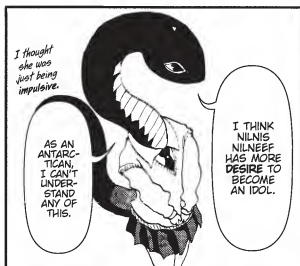
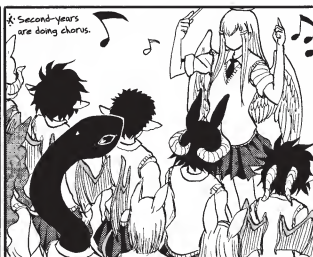
DON'T WORRY, IT'S YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH THAT COUNTS IN THE END. YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE.

BUT ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS PRETENDING TO BE A COP. MAKES ME WONDER WHAT I'M DOING HERE.



PEOPLE WHO ARE THAT CLUELESS ABOUT IT WILL END UP IN JAIL EVENTUALLY.

WHY DO THEY ASSUME THEY'RE ANONYMOUS ON AN ANONYMOUS BULLETIN BOARD?

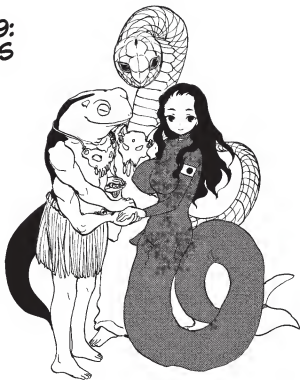


A CentaUr's Life

UNDERSTANDING AMPHIBIANFOLK PART 9: MULTIRACIAL SYMBIOSIS

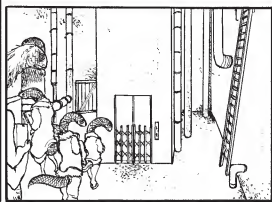
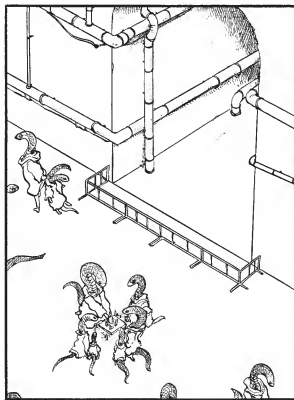
DESPITE BEING AN INTELLIGENT SPECIES, AMPHIBIANFOLK WERE FREQUENTLY TREATED AS BEASTS AND WERE THE TARGET OF GENOCIDE, ESPECIALLY BY THE RISING AGGRESSOR NATION. THIS TREATMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IS UNFORTUNATELY HISTORICALLY COMMON, AND MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THIS PERCEPTION CHANGED WHEN IT CAME TO LIGHT THAT PAST DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMPHIBIANFOLK BASED UPON APPEARANCE, ETHNICITY AND RACE WAS LARGELY AN EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY STEALING RESOURCES AND USING AMPHIBIANFOLK AS SCAPEGOATS TO DISGUISE MISMANAGEMENT.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE MAMMALIAN, ALL INTELLIGENT RACES SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO CIVIL RIGHTS. JAPAN, WITH ITS ANCIENT HISTORY OF COEXISTENCE--CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT MERFOLK, WHO ONCE LIVED IN COASTAL AREAS WORLDWIDE, CURRENTLY ONLY EXIST IN JAPAN--WAS REMISS IN NOT GRANTING RIGHTS TO AMPHIBIANFOLK EARLY ON. DISCRIMINATION MUST BE AVOIDED BY ANY MEANS AVAILABLE TO A PEACEFUL AND IDEAL NATION. TO BE SPECIFIC: A STRICTLY DEFENSIVE SECURITY POLICY AGAINST AMPHIBIANFOLK IS UNNECESSARY AND INAPPROPRIATE.

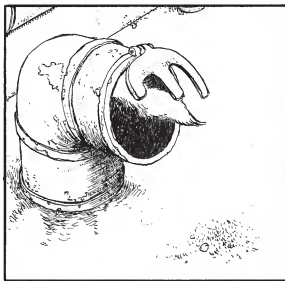
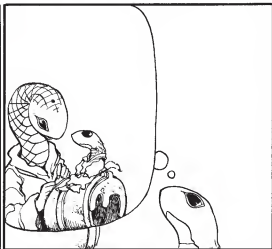
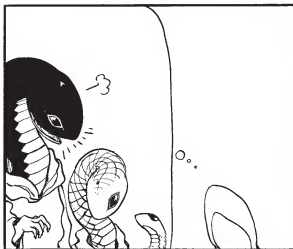
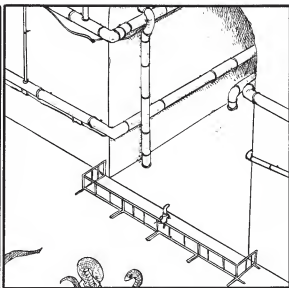
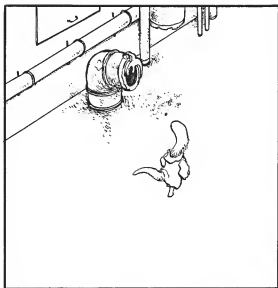


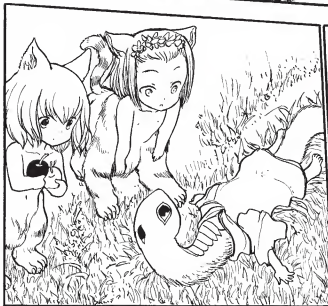
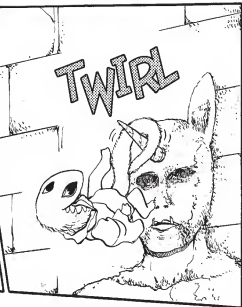
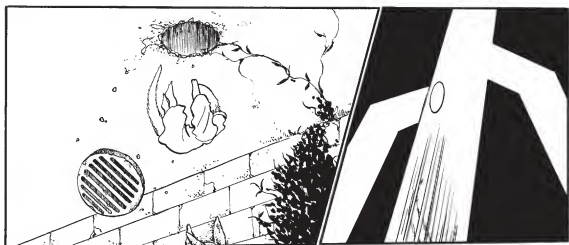
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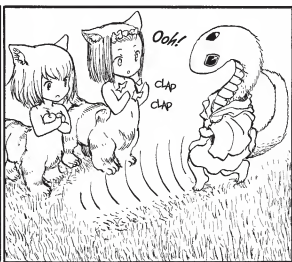
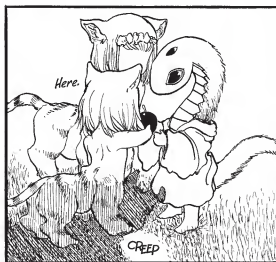
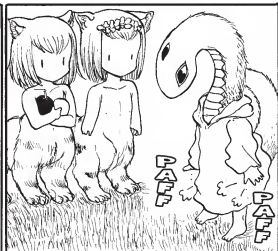
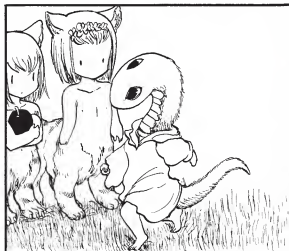
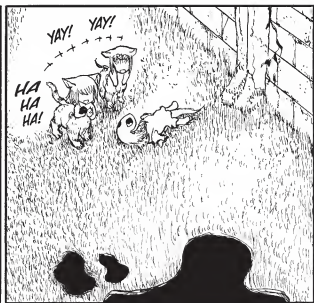
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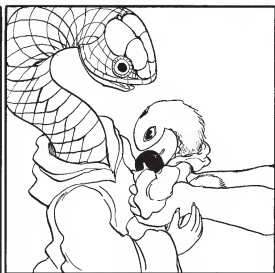
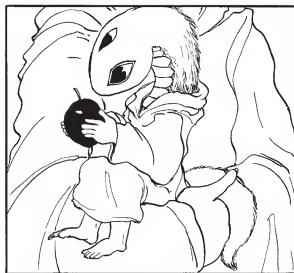
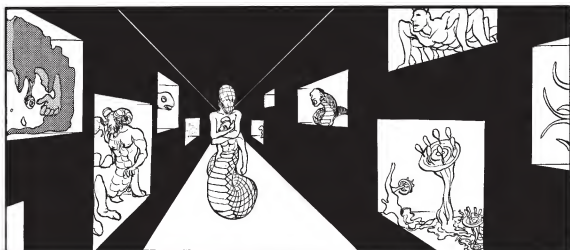
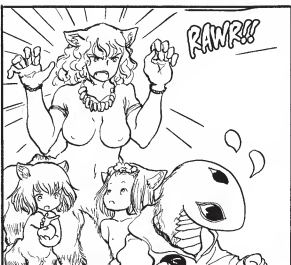






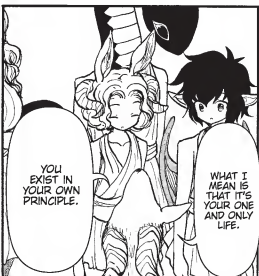
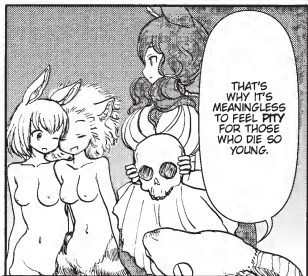
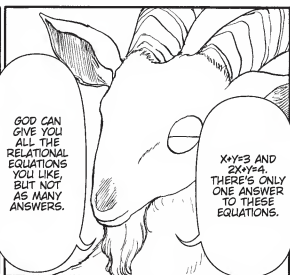
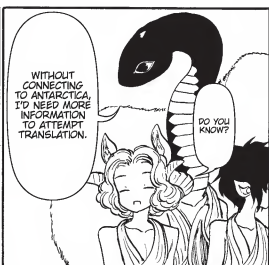
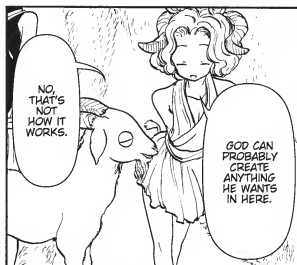






A CentaUr's Life





■ THE BAKYUU SUKEGOU RIOT AND THE WEAKENING OF THE FEUDAL SYSTEM

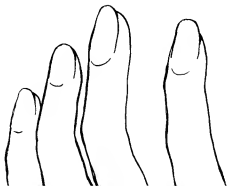
As described in the last volume, the *sukegou* system required villages near highways to supply men and horses for official communication and travel. As time went on, however, a growing number of villages opted to pay the tax penalty rather than send men. This resulted in an increase in freight dispatchers, some of whom colluded with station officers to commit fraud--for while it's difficult to hide labor, it's much easier to manipulate the books. The increasing burden and corruption of the *sukegou* system would eventually push the peasants too far, and they would rise up in a rebellion known as the *Bakyyuu Sukegou* Riot.

Southern Hidachi, which included the area where Kanata City stands today, was close enough to Edo that it was granted to a *hatamoto*, a smaller *daimyo* with an income level around 10,000 *koku*, or another small-scale *daimyo* in a nearby domain.

With militaries only large enough to defend the borders, the forces were inadequate to quell unlawful peasant rallies and uprisings. Indeed, most of the direct governance of the populace was handled by individual villages. Villages were the foundation of feudal politics (the *bakuhau* system), autonomous and administered by village officials chosen from the village elites. These officials were responsible for most aspects of government, including tax collection. This practice of government by the peasants themselves led to the spread of literacy, higher education levels, and even martial arts skills, pushing samurai increasingly lower in the elite social stratum.

Given that the peasants were already discontented by the burden of the *sukegou* system, officials chose to conceal fraud and corruption from the public to avoid further inflaming the situation. The strategy worked, for a time, but this changed when an official came to investigate a fraud accusation by a freight dispatcher named Wadachi. Thinking to protect himself, Wadachi betrayed his partner in crime Gonzaemon, the *kumi* head of Ami village. The village elites were incensed to learn of this corruption, and feeling that the people should know, they called the village together for a secret meeting. The ensuing uproar led to the destruction of the homes of Wadachi, Gonzaemon, and Asaya Jizamon (the village official). The incident was taken very seriously by the government; a group of samurai were quickly dispatched to restore order, but they arrived to find that the peasants had already peacefully disbanded.

The government response was swift and extreme. The corrupt freight dispatcher Wadachi was cleared and released for his cooperation in identifying the individuals who coordinated the riot, despite the clear evidence of his fraud. The three peasants who were believed to be the masterminds were 'executed'--they were actually killed in prison prior to their sentencing--and the other villagers were ordered to pay fines. This much was not atypical punishment for such incidents, but there was more: the Kanhasshuu Disciplinary Police Agency, a civil peacekeeping force, was called in as a precautionary measure, with the village leadership placed under their authority. This event is now seen as a clear indicator that the political system was failing.



THE UPRISING OF THE TENGU BAND AT MOUNT AKABA AND THE FALL OF THE BAKUFU

At this time, Hidachi was the domain of the Mito branch of the Shogun's family, and there was a heated succession dispute underway due to an ideological schism; though they could not know it at the time, this schism played a major role in the collapse of the *Bakufu*. The two factions involved were the Mito conservatives, who were political allies of the *Bakufu*, and a group that came to be known as the Tengu band, whose pro-Imperial, xenophobic beliefs were the theoretical foundation for a movement that led to the downfall of the feudal government. This time period was also complicated by the active intrusion of the West into Asia, and although Japan sought trade with the West, the nation's relatively weak defensive forces fueled deep concerns about the threat of foreign invasion.



The succession dispute was resolved when a man named Nariaki prevailed against the pro-*Bakufu* Mito conservatives and came into power with the endorsement of a group of samurai reformists. With an eye toward improving defense, Nariaki implemented various reforms in the domain, including organizing the non-conservative faction, training peasant soldiers, and building regional schools to educate non-samurai. The reformists who would become known as the Tengu band were vocal supporters of the "revere the emperor, expel all barbarians" philosophy espoused by the Mito School, and also campaigned on behalf of the Anti-Buddhism Movement and the separation of Shinto from Buddhism. The fact that village officials and wealthy merchants were involved in this movement served to deepen internal conflict, and ideological tensions escalated further upon the death of Nariaki.

When the port at Yokohama was opened to the West (ending Japanese seclusion), the enraged Tengu band rose up in armed rebellion in multiple regions, including Mount Akaba and Lake Shio. They swept through Hidachi, looting and massacring, until their defeat at the hands of the *Bakufu*'s troops. The few insurgents that managed to flee were caught and wiped out on their way to Kyoto. After the rebellion, nearly everyone involved with the Tengu band was systematically executed by the Mito conservative faction--not only almost all of the rebels themselves, but their families as well.

The tides of power, however, are ever-shifting. Following the collapse of the *Bakufu* and the defeat of the former armies of the Shogun in the Boshin War, the Mito conservatives (who had been *Bakufu* collaborators) found themselves being pursued by pro-imperial forces. Despite their attempt to counterattack, the conservatives were ultimately defeated and subsequently slaughtered along with their families in an act of retribution by the survivors of the Tengu band. The bloodshed of these internal conflicts was so great that the Mito domain was unable to secure representation in the new government, and a new era dawned with Hidachi as the poorest prefecture in the nation.



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story and art by KEI MURAYAMA

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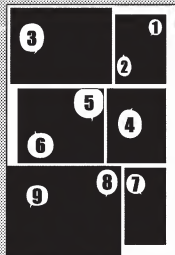
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THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...



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